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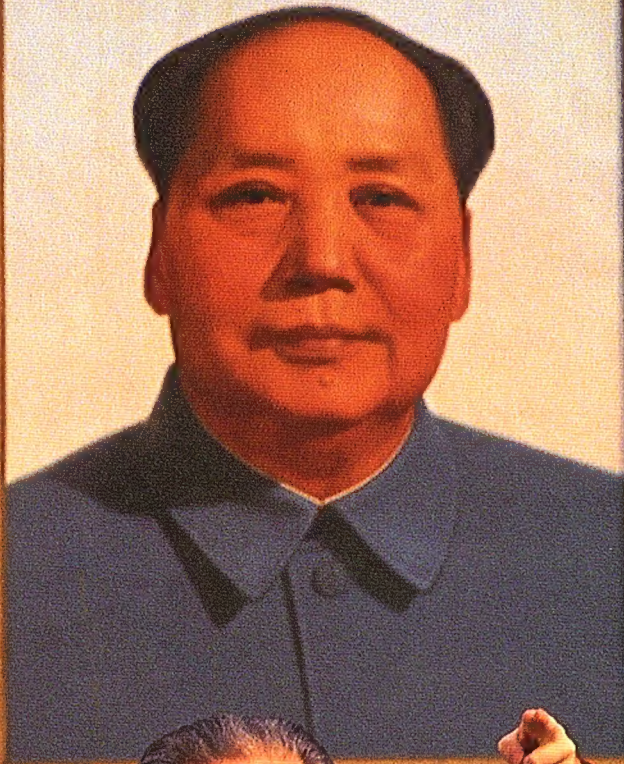
T O U R I S M

JANUARY 1994

162

On the Trail of Mao Zedong

- Shaoshan, Mao Zedong's Birthplace
- Travelling the Mao Zedong Trail
- China's Newest Mao Craze
- Life at the Foot of a Mao Statue
- Mao Zedong's Only Grandson



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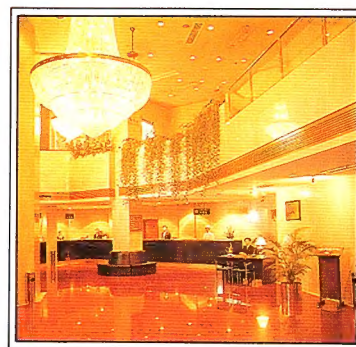
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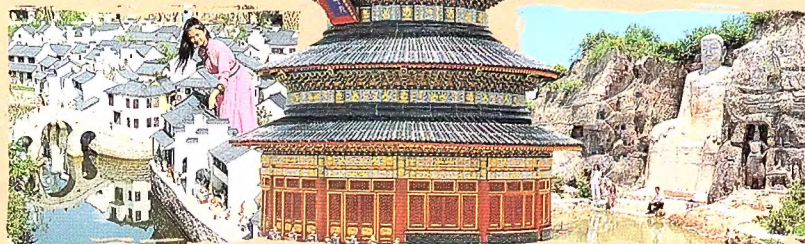
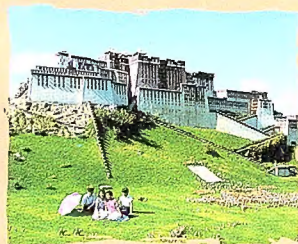
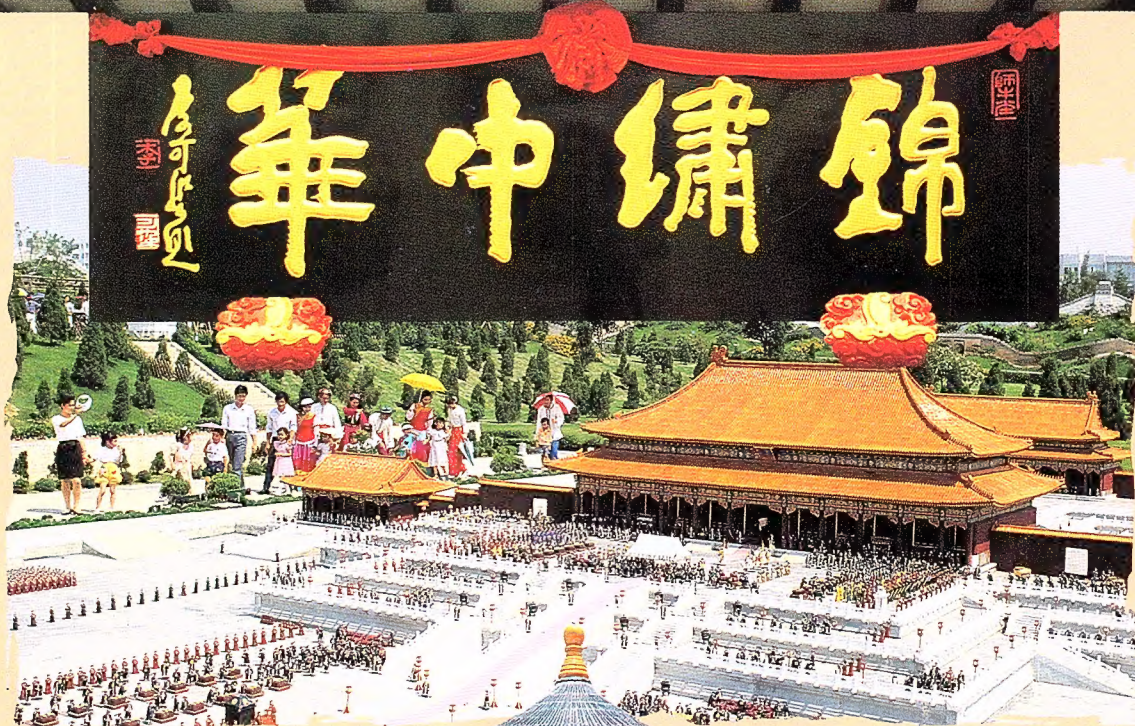


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INTERVIEW

Chen Kaige: A Born Film Director Article by Chen Xiaobo

60

THE REALM OF RELIGION

A Unique Temple Fair in Zhejiang Province Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui

65

The Jinuo People's Sacrifice to the Rice God Photos by Wang Yizhong / Text by Luo Yunzhi

72

LOCAL CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

Shaoxing's Own She Opera Text by Jin Hong

76

PHOTOGRAPHER'S GALLERY

80

CONTENTS

No.162 January 1994

ON THE TRAIL OF MAO ZEDONG



Shaoshan, Mao Zedong's Birthplace

10

Photos by Guang Hui/Article by Xie Shi

One hundred years ago Mao Zedong was born in a small village in central Hunan called Shaoshanchong. During the past several decades this place has been visited by countless people eager to see the house where Mao lived as a child. Today, Shaoshan is a city and a major tourist attraction, all due to this one man.

Travelling the Mao Zedong Trail

16

Article by Jun Feng

In Mao Zedong's 83 years he lived for various periods of time in several different places, all of which have become stops on a modern-day "pilgrimage" route, including Yan'an, his military base for 13 years, Jinggang Mountain, Zhongnanhai in Beijing and others.

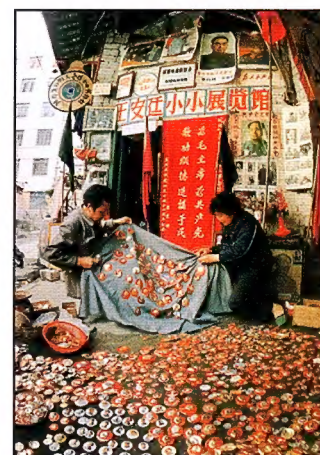


China's Newest Mao Craze

20

Article by Tian Fu

The recent craze in China for all Mao-related memorabilia seems to have reached a climax on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth, with scores of people selling a huge variety of Mao souvenirs.



FOR THE COLLECTOR

The Miniature Shoushan Stone Sculptures of Fuzhou Photos & Text by Lin Jian **82**

TRAVEL NOTES **84**

EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS

Major Hotels in Hunan and Hainan Provinces **90**

BUSINESS TIPS **92**

NEWS **93**

NEXT ISSUE **94**

Front Cover: Foreign tourists under the rostrum in Tian'anmen Square (by Yu Ming)



PUBLISHER:

HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS
17/F., V. Heun Building,
138 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong
Tel: 541 1331
Cable: HKCATMPS
Fax: 854 1721
Director: Tchan Fou-li
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Liu Pit Mui, Chapman Lee
Editor-in-Chief: Wang Miao
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Director of Art Dept.: Leung Ka Ling
Editorial Dept.: 541 9980
Managing Dept., Advertising Dept.,
Tourist Dept., Promotion Dept. &
Trade Service Dept.: 541 1331
Photo Library: 541 1331
Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.
C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road,
Tai Po, N.T., H.K.
Tel: 666 4988
H.K. Advertising Agency:
In-Group Publication Ltd.

AGENCIES:

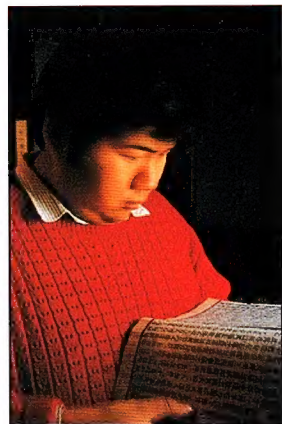
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Oriental Culture Enterprise Co., New York
China Daily Distribution Corp., New York

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Printed in Hong Kong

News-stand price: HK\$38

NOTICE OF PRICE ADJUSTMENT

We announce with regret that due to skyrocketing prices in the past year, the great increase in our management costs has forced us to adjust the price of our magazine. As of our January 1994 issue, the new per unit price of *China Tourism* is HK\$38.



Life at the Foot of a Mao Statue 26

Photos by Chen Zhixian/Article by Shi Bao Xiu

One of the country's few remaining large Mao statues is located in Shanxi's Jincheng County. In this article we take a look at some of the present-day activities taking place right at Mao's very feet.

Mao Zedong's Only Grandson 28

Photos & Article by Wang Yan

Mao's sole male grandchild, Mao Xinyu, bears a remarkable resemblance to his late grandfather, both in his appearance and his personal likes and dislikes.

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

End of the Journey: Part Three of "By Motorbike Along China's Borders"

34

Photos & Article by Xu Liqun

Over five years ago our author took to the road on a remarkable quest to travel by motorcycle all 80,000 kilometres of China's borders. In this, his third and last instalment, he makes his way along the entire coastline of southern and eastern China, ending up back in his home province of Heilongjiang.



ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE



An Age-Old Village on the Yellow River 52

Photos by Chan Yat Nin/Article by Ma Ke & Xiu Shi

Only recently "discovered" by the outside world, the small village of Dangjia in Shaanxi is home to some of the country's most beautiful and well-preserved ancient structures. For this reason, Dangjia has been designated a "protected village of historical value".

E D I T O R I A L

On the Trail of Mao Zedong

No matter what one's opinion is of Mao Zedong, no one can deny the enormous impact he has had on modern-day China. Now, over 17 years after his death, he still remains a subject of great controversy, both in China and abroad. December 26, 1993 marks the 100th anniversary of Mao Zedong's birth, and all over China small entrepreneurs are cashing in on this fact, spurred on by a resurgence of interest in all Mao-related objects.

In this issue we look at the life of Mao Zedong from a purely travel perspective, for many of the places he once lived are now popular tourist attractions. In addition, an increasing number of tourists in recent years have been following the Mao Zedong trail: travelling all over the country to visit places made famous by the late chairman.

Therefore we too decided to take to the Mao Zedong trail, and in these pages offer our readers up-to-date information on Shaoshan, Mao's birthplace, his strategic bases of Jinggangshan and Yan'an, and Zhongnanhai, his home for many years. We also pay a visit to Mao's only grandson, and take a look at a recent trend in China: collecting Mao souvenirs.

In addition, we have the third and last instalment of one very adventurous man's five-year journey by motorbike all along China's 80,000 kilometres of borders; an article on opera in the lovely city of water, Shaoxing, and a fascinating look at the ancient buildings of a small town in Shaanxi Province. An exclusive interview with the talented film director Chen Kaige and two feature stories on religion in China round out our first issue of 1994.



An Auspicious Beginning

PHOTO BY PENG ZHENGE

TEXT BY SHI BAO XIU

Legend has it that early one morning over 160 years ago, a woodcutter living in Hunan's Shaoshan Village was cutting firewood on a mountain, when suddenly he saw rosy clouds rise up from the eastern horizon and golden rays of sunlight radiate through the clouds. In an instant the red sun appeared, accompanied by rolling crimson clouds. On the forested mountain, the dense rising mist gradually developed into spiralling white columns which drifted upward, becoming one with the rosy clouds.

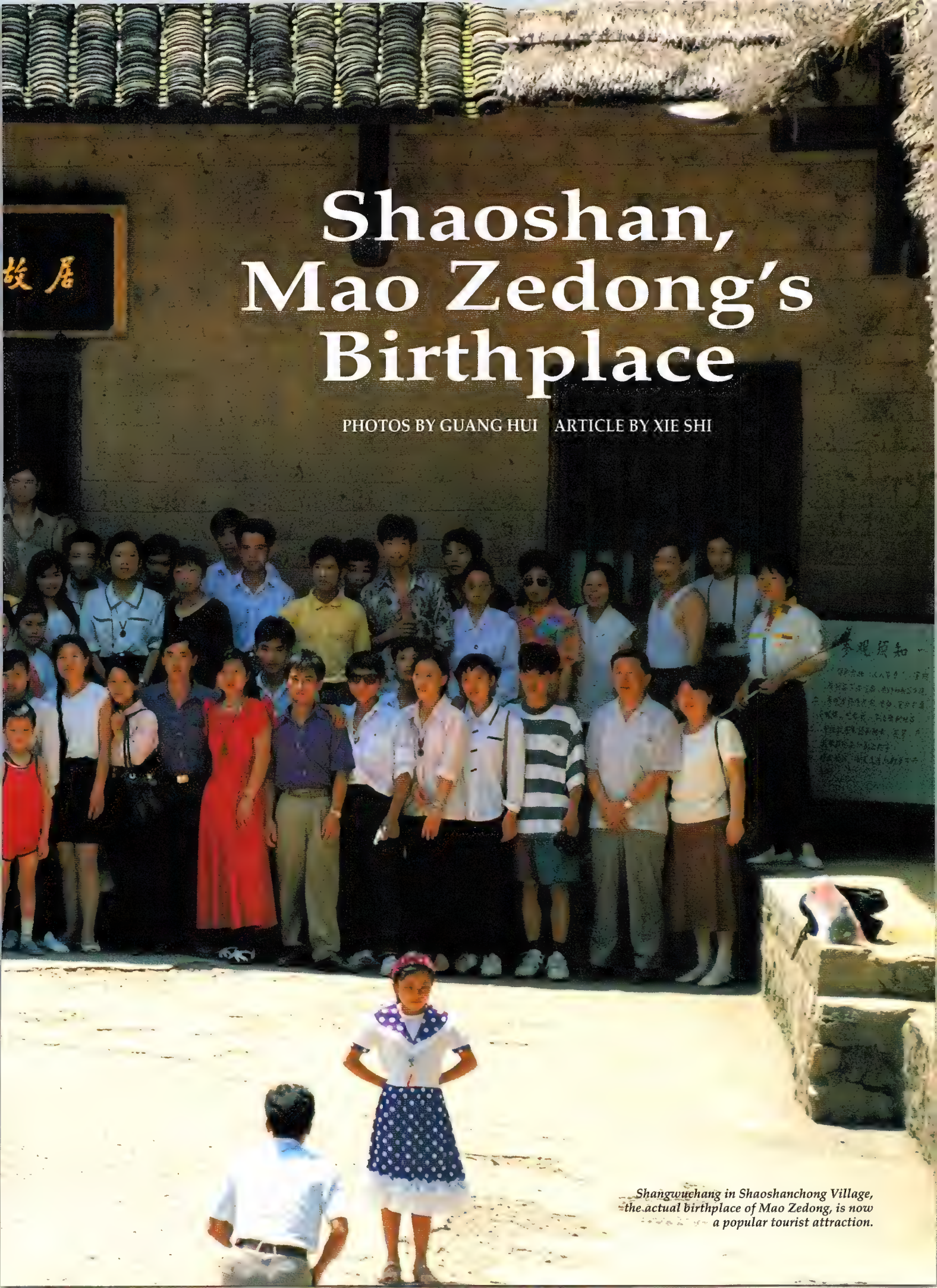
Later a geomancer told the woodcutter that what he had seen was the King of Heaven leaving his palace to look for a monarch to head a future dynasty on earth. The spot on which he witnessed this significant event was, he said, a special place in terms of geomancy. If the spot were chosen as a family's graveyard that family would produce a long line of important personages that would bring honour to their ancestors.

Whether you believe the legend or not, Mao Zedong was indeed born on December 26, 1893 into the family of the woodcutter, who was in fact Mao Zedong's great grandfather, Mao Siduan.

Until his death on September 9, 1976, most of Mao Zedong's life was spent leading his country. Before the founding of the People's Republic he was in the military for 22 years, marching over most of China's mountains and rivers. During the rest of his life from 1949 to his death, everything that happened in China was intimately tied to this one man.

December 26, 1993 is the 100th anniversary of Mao's birth, and he is once again being discussed with great enthusiasm. In this issue, we will be examining some of the places that he made famous and other topics of interest to tourists travelling in today's China — a country that might be completely different had it not been for a simple woodcutter's mystical vision.



A large group of tourists, including men, women, and children, are posing for a group photo in front of a traditional Chinese building with a tiled roof. The building has a sign that reads '故居' (Former Residence). The group is arranged in several rows, with some people standing on a raised platform. In the foreground, a young girl in a white and blue polka-dot dress stands with her hands on her hips, facing away from the camera. A man in a light blue shirt is partially visible in the bottom left corner, also facing away from the camera. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Shaoshan, Mao Zedong's Birthplace

PHOTOS BY GUANG HUI ARTICLE BY XIE SHI

*Shangwuchang in Shaoshanchong Village,
the actual birthplace of Mao Zedong, is now
a popular tourist attraction.*



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2



4



A photo of two of Mao's neighbours, He Ruixiu and her husband (1). Portraits of Mao are often pasted on walls in houses all over the country (2). Every day at the Shaoshan Railway Station, people from Mao's hometown prepare to leave for the coastal regions, where they hope to find better employment opportunities (3). This book stall sells all sorts of Mao-related reading material outside his ancestral hall (4). Shaoshan people even wear Mao T-shirts (5).

As I exited the railway station in Hunan Province's capital city of Changsha, a group of young women were standing outside, holding signs with the words "Through buses to Shaoshan" written on them and shouting at the top of their lungs to solicit customers. Unable to refuse one young woman's laughter and enthusiastic invitation, I boarded her mini-bus. As I sat down and turned round, I saw a foreign couple of about fifty years of age. After exchanging greetings, we discovered that with a combination of the man's Chinese, my few English expressions and jesticulations, we could hold a conversation.

The man was an American computer engineer who had come to China with his wife for a visit. The two had entered China from Pakistan in June, journeyed along the Silk Road and went to Sichuan's city of Chongqing, where they took a boat trip through the Three Gorges and down to Jinggang Mountain in Jiangxi Province. In Jinggang Mountain they visited the villages that Mao Zedong and his troops had held for several years. From Jiangxi they had come to Hunan with the intention of seeing Mao Zedong's birthplace in

Shaoshan, then they planned to go on to visit Yan'an, where Mao Zedong lived for 13 years, and finally end their trip in Beijing.

The woman told me that her husband had a keen interest in Mao Zedong. She said that from their point of view, Mao Zedong was an extraordinary man who remains shrouded in mystery even today. Their motivation to travel to places connected with the late Chinese leader was not merely to enjoy the scenery and learn more about life in China, but to try to find a solution to the mystery surrounding this man.

Shaoshanchong Becomes "Mao Zedong City"

Since there are only a few short streets in Shaoshan, it does not take long to drive through it. Originally there was only a small mountain village here called Shaoshanchong, with several hundred households scattered throughout. But because it was Mao Zedong's birthplace, Shaoshanchong became a place of mass worship during the "cultural revolution", and thus the village where the "Red Sun" rose eventually grew into a city.

In Shaoshan I noticed that there were many people strolling around the streets, most of whom were visitors from other parts of the country and spoke different dialects. There was also a number of foreigners, many of whom wore Mao Zedong badges on their chests and the octagonal caps of the Red Army on their heads.

Everything on sale in the shops lining both sides of the streets was connected to Mao Zedong. The bookstores were exclusively filled with works about him, dating from before his death to the present time. The sundry goods shops were filled with Mao Zedong souvenirs, the most popular being Mao Zedong badges. They were also very economical purchases: for just two or three yuan one could buy an authentic "cultural revolution" era badge. The music shops were both crowded and noisy, blaring out songs with lyrics like "The Red Sun Sheds Its Rays in All Directions".

Here one can buy all the songs ever written in praise of Mao Zedong, his poems and quotations set to music, as well as tapes and compact discs of arias from "the revolutionary model operas" madly promoted by his wife, Jiang Qing. The arts and crafts shops provide an even greater variety of articles. There visitors can find portraits of Mao Zedong woven in silk or inlaid in porcelain. There were wrist-watches with his picture on them and alarm clocks set in a base in the form of his volumes of selected writings.

In Shaoshan every restaurant has a signboard that reads "The Mao Family Restaurant". The manager of one of these restaurants, who was of the same generation as Mao Zedong, simply used his own name, "Mao Zejun", as a signboard for his restaurant.

I went to visit the restaurant that was the first to use the Mao name on its signboard in Shaoshan. One wall was decorated with a large photo of Mao Zedong taken in 1959, when he returned to Shaoshan. Another wall was festooned with various Mao Zedong badges that the restaurant's manager had collected during the "cultural revolution".

As I sat down and opened the menu on the table, I found on the first page a list of "Mao Zedong's Dishes", such as pork braised in brown sauce and stir-fried chilli pepper. Although it was all common farmer fare not normally considered good enough for a proper restaurant, when the dishes arrived and I stuffed a piece of the juicy braised pork in my mouth, I found it was truly delicious and wonderfully fragrant. The pepper, though, was quite a different experience, setting my tongue and mouth on fire and bringing tears to my eyes. Hunan's hot peppers are legendary in China, and even the girls here have earned the sobriquet "pepper lasses".

Shangwuchang, Mao Zedong's Old Residence

Mao Zedong's old residence is only a ten-minute walk from Shaoshan City. As I followed the stream of visitors to Shangwuchang, where Mao Zedong was born, I saw that the vendor's stands along both sides of the road were again laden with a plethora of souvenirs: Mao Zedong badges, umbrellas depicting his old residence, handbags,



aprons and handkerchieves printed with his portrait and so on. Like the restaurant owners, the vendors were almost all surnamed Mao. Visitors were eagerly looking and bargaining, all wanting to buy a few souvenirs before they left.

When I entered the Mao family courtyard, a visiting delegation of nearly 100 members was having a group picture taken in front of Mao Zedong's old residence. On either side of the courtyard were more vendors' stands piled up with souvenirs of different kinds.

Mao Zedong's old residence is an ordinary, old-style farmhouse with yellowish adobe walls and a tiled roof. Despite its simple design, it was considered quite a nice building for this region at the time of Mao Zedong's birth. After Mao died, the farmers here began to till their land on a household basis, and by taking advantage of the fact that it was Mao Zedong's birthplace, they had soon turned it into a tourist attraction. The farmers became rich and began constructing modern buildings that their forefathers would have never even dreamed of possessing. Standing beside these tall new buildings, Mao Zedong's old residence looks a bit crude and out-of-date.

Attached to the right side of Mao Zedong's former residence is an old thatched house. An old woman there told me, "This thatched house belongs to my family. We used to be Chairman Mao's nearest neighbour. My husband, who is of the same generation as the chairman, is called Mao Zeya."



3



4

This was Mao Zedong's study at one time, located inside the secluded Drip Drop Cave (1). ■ This car was used by Mao in 1959 when he returned to Shaoshan (2). ■ Restaurants in Shaoshan that use the word "Mao" in their name all do a roaring business (3). ■ Even beside the lotus pond in front of Mao's former residence, vendors will not pass up the opportunity to sell souvenirs (4).

An Exclusive Mao Souvenir

People in Shaoshan say that the "Red Sun" was born here because Mao Zedong's ancestral grave was located in a geomantically correct position. Although I do not believe in geomancy or the theory of *yin* and *yang*, my curiosity drove me to go and have a look at the Mao family graveyard. On the way I saw a restaurant with a signboard reading "Mao Xiasheng's Restaurant".

An old man of around 80 sat in front of the restaurant, and beside him was a vendor's stand piled with photos of Mao Zedong talking into a farmer's ear. The old man was the farmer in the picture. He introduced himself: "My name is Mao Xiasheng. Thirty-four years ago when Chairman Mao returned to Shaoshan, he came to my house on his way back from a visit to his parents' grave. When I returned from the fields and found the chairman in my house, I got very nervous. He offered me a cigarette and I took it with trembling hands. The chairman patted me on the shoulder, laughed and said, 'Don't be nervous. We are all one family. I often came to your house when I was a child and liked to sit on your threshold. I held you in my arms, and you even wet on my pants.' His remarks set everyone in the room roaring with laughter. Just at that moment, the photographer pressed his shutter."

(Continued on page 89)

It was not yet dark after supper so I left the hotel to take a walk around Mao Zedong's former home. As I roamed about, I came to a farmer's house and had a chat with one of the residents, named He Ruixiu. She told me that most of the families in Shaoshanchong were surnamed Mao. Although her family was not, they had lived in the village for generations and were neighbours of Mao Zedong's family. She went to a cupboard and produced a package containing a piece of red flannel, on which were pinned a number of Mao Zedong badges that she had kept for years. When I took my leave, she picked out one of the badges and gave it to me. It was imprinted with the words: "Fight selfishness and repudiate revisionism", one of Mao's famous quotations. On the back was the date it was made: "December 26, 1968", Mao Zedong's 75th birthday.



The Longtan (Dragon Pool) Waterfalls near Ciping on Jinggang Mountain actually consist of five falls (by Peng Zhengge).



The Monument to the Red Army Martyrs in Zunyi (by Peng Zhengge)



The slogans written on the walls of these farmhouses in Jinggangshan remind one of stormier days (by Peng Zhengge).

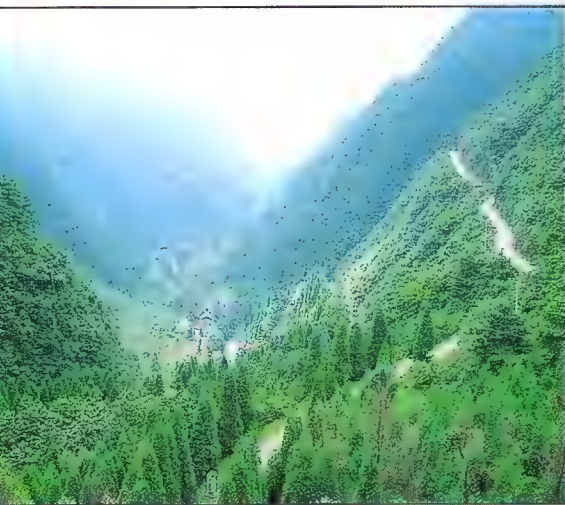


A statue of a young Mao Zedong stands in the Jinggangshan Sculpture Garden in Ciping (by Peng Zhengge).



Mao Zedong's former office in Yan'an (by Hu Wugong)

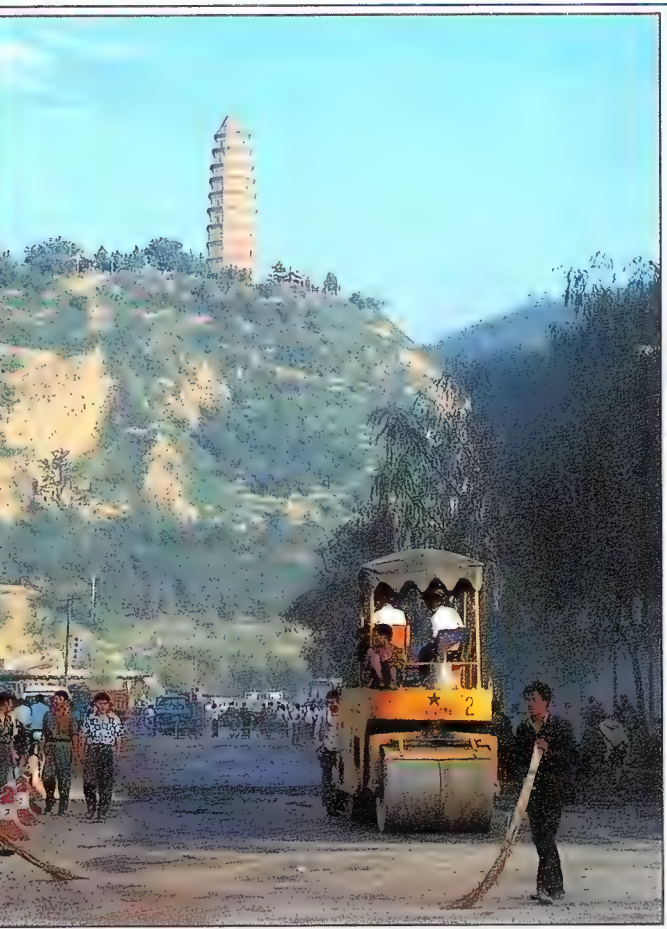
Loushan Pass is located 90 kilometres from the city of Zunyi in Guizhou Province (by Peng Zheng).



The 1935 Zunyi Conference was held here (by Peng Zheng).

Travelling the Mao Zedong Trail

ARTICLE BY JUN FENG



On September 9, 1976 Mao Zedong breathed his last, putting an end to an extraordinary lifetime of accomplishments. During his 83 years he left his mark on many places in China, some of which became his home for various periods of time. These places include Jinggang Mountain in Jiangxi, Zunyi in Guizhou, Yan'an in Shaanxi, Xibaipo in Hebei and, certainly, Zhongnanhai in Beijing.

Jinggang Mountain

Located in the middle section of the Luoxiao Mountain Range on the border between Hunan and Jiangxi provinces, Jinggang Mountain's highest peak rises to over 1,000 metres above sea level. From October 1927 to January 1929 Mao Zedong had a military base built on this mountain.

With its dense forests and pleasant climate, Jinggang Mountain is an ideal summer holiday destination. In December

1984 Jinggangshan City was formally established, with Ciping as its centre. In Ciping one can visit the house where Mao Zedong stayed when he returned to Jinggang Mountain in 1965. At the Mausoleum of Revolutionary Martyrs on the top of the mountain is a garden with a group of sculptures made in 1987 of Mao, Zhu De, Chen Yi, Peng Dehuai, Tan Zhenlin and 12 other Red Army leaders.

The Longtan (Dragon Pool) Waterfalls located near Ciping is one of the city's major scenic spots. Approaching this site one can hear a sound like chirping crickets, which in fact is the sound of the falls. From a small pavilion about 200 metres below the highway one can get a closer look at the waterfalls. The water cascades down from one level to another, creating a total of five falls.

The Ancient City of Zunyi

Zunyi is a city with a history of some 2,000 years. As the communication hub between Guizhou and Sichuan, it is also at the centre of a tourist route in northern Guizhou. Zunyi is where a conference of the Central Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party was held in January 1935. The conference decided on Mao Zedong as the leader of both the Red Army and the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. The Zunyi Conference Memorial Hall is now open to



▲ Performances harking back to another era are staged in front of Mao's former cave-dwelling in Yan'an (by Hu Wugong).

◀ The Tang-dynasty Baota Pagoda built on the summit of Jialing Mountain has become the symbol of Yan'an (by Hu Wugong).

the public. Although Zunyi is developing into a modern industrial city, the old city area has retained much of its ancient look.

Situated 90 kilometres from Zunyi is the perilous Loushan Pass. Here Mao Zedong wrote a poem entitled "Loushan Pass — To the Melody of *Yiqin'er*" when he was crossing the pass with his army during the Long March, thus bringing fame to this otherwise unknown mountain area.

The town of Maotai in Zunyi's Renhuai County is famous for its spirit of the same name. The Maotai distillery here has been making wine for 300 years. On one bank of the Chishui River facing the town is the Maotai Ferry Monument, which is in memory of an historical event, when in March of 1935, the Red Army left Zunyi and moved westward. On the morning of March 16 the army occupied Maotai and crossed the Chishui River from this ferry pier under the command of Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De and other leaders.

A Tang-Dynasty Pagoda in Yan'an

The ancient city of Yan'an stands in the heart of northern Shaanxi at the confluence of the Yanhe and Nanchuan rivers. Embraced on three sides by the Fenghuang, Qingliang and Baota mountains, it is located in strategically important terrain. In 1974 Yan'an was officially made a city.

In October 1935 the Red Army completed its 12,000-kilometre Long March and arrived at Yan'an; in January 1937 the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and

Mao Zedong entered the city and garrisoned there. Regarded as the symbol of Yan'an, Baota Pagoda was built atop Jialing Mountain during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Forty-four metres and nine storeys high, from the top one has a panoramic view of the city.

Cave-dwellings are typical to the loess plateau, where Yan'an is located. During his days in Yan'an Mao Zedong also lived in one of these dwellings. In order to prevent the encroachment of sand caused by sandstorms, a shelterbelt known as the Green Corridor has been formed over the past 40 years. The original earthen cave-dwellings have now been made into stone caves or reinforced concrete buildings of one or more storeys.

At the entrance of Du Fu Valley in Yan'an is a memorial hall dedicated to the Tang-dynasty poet Du Fu, and is one of the city's major tourist attractions. Mount Wanhua, located five kilometres from the entrance of the valley, is believed to be the hometown of Hua Mulan, a legendary heroine who disguised herself as a man in order to take the place of her old father, who was ordered by the imperial court to join the army.

Covered with emerald cypress trees, the mountain stays green all year round. On the mountaintop is a cypress tree with five trunks growing together. Viewed from a distance, it looks like five dragons descending from the sky, hence its name Five Dragon Cypress. Wild poenies in red, white, yellow and purple grow all over the mountain. About 30,000 in all, these plants produce an intoxicating scent when the flowers are in full bloom.

This hall at Xibaipo Village in Hebei Province is where a conference of the Chinese Communist Party was held (by Lu Baizi).



Mao Zedong once lived in this house during his stay at Xibaipo (by Lu Baizi).

The Picturesque Xibaipo

Xibaipo Village lies on the north bank of the Hutuo River in Pingshan County, 90 kilometres from Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province. From May 1948 to March 1949 this was the site of Mao Zedong's last countryside headquarters before moving to Beijing. The former dwellings of Mao Zedong and other leaders of the Communist Party are now open to visitors. The house where Mao Zedong once lived was just a simple farmhouse, but from here he directed battles and wrote several books and treatises.

A view from the summit of Baipo Ridge reveals the beautiful scenery of Xibaipo. The green and luxuriant mountains extend far into the horizon, and the vast lake below is dotted with fishing boats. The Gangnan Reservoir nearby features both river and mountain scenery. Visitors can take a cruise around the reservoir and taste the golden-finned carp and shrimp cultivated there.

Mao's Last Residence

In January 1949 Mao Zedong entered the city then known as Beiping (Beijing). For the following 27 years Mao Zedong lived in Zhongnanhai, the place where he stayed for the longest period of time, until his death in September 1976.

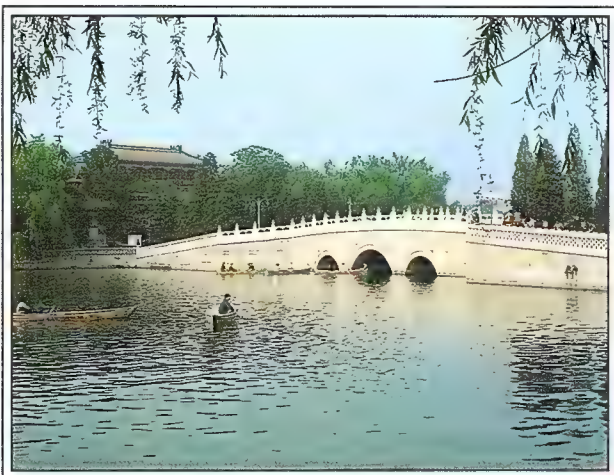
Located west of the Palace Museum, the 100-hectare Zhongnanhai complex was first built in the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234). In the successive Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, it served as either a temporary palace for emperors or a banquet hall. The architectural complex was largely built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), but most of the extant buildings today are later Qing-dynasty structures.

Among the numerous buildings in Zhongnanhai, Mao Zedong first lived in the simple and graceful Fengze Garden, or, to be more exact, in the Juxiang (Chrysanthemum Fragrance) Study in the garden. Originally a library during the Ming Dynasty, Mao took it as his study, and one can still see many of his books here as well as in his office, dining room, reception hall, bedroom and even the bathroom. In August 1966, Mao moved to a house near the swimming pool in another part of Zhongnanhai.

Walking along the veranda outside Juxiang Study one comes to Yinian Hall, the main building in Fengze Garden, where Mao Zedong presided over important meetings and received guests from home and abroad. In the courtyard in front of Yinian Hall are two 300-year-old Chinese flowering crabapple trees. Every year when the flowers were in full bloom, Mao Zedong would invite well-known personages to come and enjoy the flowers and have a chat.

Mao visited many other scenic spots in Beijing, but Juxiang Study holds the most memories of the late leader.

Translated by K.V. Ku



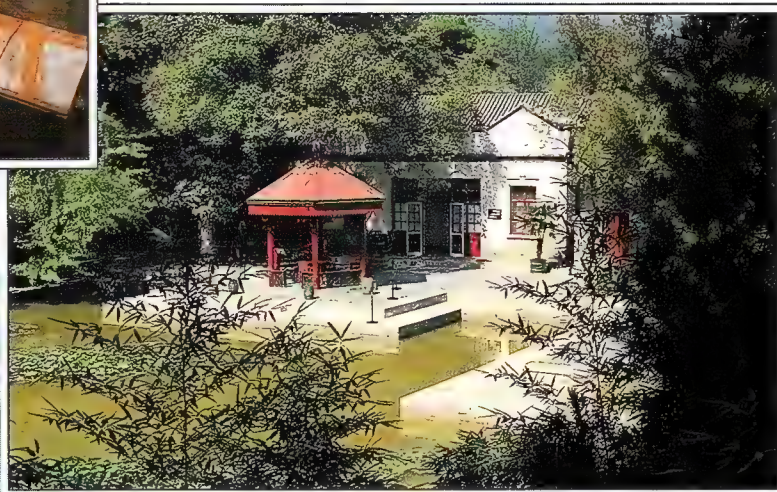
Yingtai Bridge in Zhongnanhai (by Ma Peiwen)



In 1918 Mao Zedong worked as a librarian in the Honglou (Red Building) at Shatan, once part of Beijing University (by Yu Ming).



Juxiang Study in Zhongnanhai's Fengze Garden was Mao's residence after he came to Beijing in 1949 (by Wang Yan).



Shuangqing Villa in the Western Hills in the suburbs of Beijing is where Mao stayed before he moved into the city centre (by Liu Jiaxiang).



Mao lived for many years in Fengze Garden at Zhongnanhai in Beijing (by Yu Ming).



No. 8 Ji'ansuo Left Lane off Jingshan Street East was one of Mao's temporary residences when he first entered Beijing (by Yu Ming).

China's Newest Mao Craze

PHOTOS BY AN GE ARTICLE BY TIAN FU



Mao's portrait on a T-shirt in Guangxi



Mao souvenirs are sold everywhere in his hometown of Shaoshan in Hunan Province (by Guang Hui).



This Jilin man has practically covered his entire body in Mao badges.



Part of a Mao collection in Guangxi

When Mao Zedong was on his deathbed in 1976, a great earthquake shook Tangshan, a city to the east of Beijing. Some elderly residents said that it was an omen foretelling the death of a great man. Before long, Mao Zedong passed away, and for the following years much discussion took place about the merits and mistakes he made during his lifetime. One school, for example, argued that 70 per cent of what he had done was correct. Since China began to reform its economy and open itself to the world, however, people have gradually lost interest in political appraisals of the late chairman.

Unexpectedly, at a time when people are going commercial, Mao images have returned to China in a big way. This trend has now evolved into a kind of craze as we approach the centenary anniversary of his birth. Today, some 100 songs in praise of Mao Zedong such as "The East Is Red", "Sailing in the Sea Depends on the Helmsman" and "The Golden Hill in Beijing" are once again reverberating throughout the country. In a strange juxtaposition of eras, however, the music accompanying the songs is being played with electronic instruments and the singers are mostly young pop stars. The words remain the same but the tempo



This old man from Shanxi looks back on the "old days" with nostalgia (by Chen Zhixian).



The World's Greatest Collector of Mao Badges

PHOTO BY XUE JUN
TEXT BY QIANG LUN

Wang Anting, a collector of Mao badges, lives at No. 23 Wufu Street in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Since 1966, the first year of the "cultural revolution", he has been collecting Mao Zedong badges. Through his 27 years of effort he has acquired a collection of more than 50,000 Mao badges from different eras. They are made of all sorts of materials: copper, aluminium, gold, silver, chromium, iron, lead, sponge, plastic, polymethyl methacrylate, bamboo, wood, enamel, ceramic, bakelite, shell, etc. For his unusual accomplishment, Wang has even been listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Contrary to what one might expect, Wang is not a rich man. He acquired his Mao badges by doing odd jobs in exchange for badges. He is a carpenter, and during the "cultural revolution" he made furniture for a living. He never bargained for higher payment for his work; instead, he would ask for a few more Mao badges.

Today, his house has been converted into a Mao museum. Apart from badges, there are also portraits, plaster statues, posters of Mao's quotations and so on. Such things were available everywhere in those days, so people did not pay much attention to them. But as time passed they became more and more valuable, bringing Wang a level of fame that he never would have imagined when he first began his collection 27 years ago.



In Yunnan, Mao's statue shares the place of honour with Buddhist and other deities.



In Jiangxi, Mao Zedong portraits are placed above ancestral altars.



Books concerning Mao are sold everywhere in Hunan Province (by Guang Hui).



In the home of an embassy official in Beijing (by Wang Miao)

seems slower — much more relaxed and gentle. These days the songs are sung more for entertainment than eulogistic purposes. Many have been made into compact discs which are played in karaoke halls, and publishers, wholesalers and retail shops have struck it rich by making and selling these items. Even more surprising is that in August of this year a compilation of Mao's speeches, delivered in his thick Hunan accent, has been made into CDs and cassette tapes entitled "Voice of the Giant". Published by a music publishing house in Beijing, it is selling very well.

When the Mao cult reached its climax during the "cultural revolution", Mao badges were *de rigueur*. Everyone, men, women and children had a Mao badge

pinned on his or her jacket. Some even sported dozens of them, and almost everybody had a sizeable collection. This craze petered out as the "cultural revolution" came to an end. Now, over 15 years later, a new fad of collecting Mao badges has emerged, with both local people and tourists buying them up as collectable souvenirs. Since the demand has outstripped supply, badge manufacturers have taken this opportunity to increase profits — indeed, some factories have been thus saved from bankruptcy. A great number of Mao portraits have been printed as well. In the countryside, especially in remote areas, old folks post Mao's portrait on their sitting-room



In Jiangxi, portraits of Mao can even be found on porcelain.

walls, flanked by those of their late parents. On the table beneath the portraits are incense burners and candle-sticks.



A Museum of Mao Clay Figures in Yan'an

PHOTOS & TEXT BY HU WUGONG

The home of Wang Wenhai, a resident of Yan'an in Shaanxi Province, looks more like a workshop than a residence. The day that I called on him, I noticed that the ground was covered with clay and the tables, bookshelves, chairs, cupboards and even the brick bed were covered with row upon row of Mao clay figures. There must have been over a thousand. Sitting amidst the figures were Wang and his wife, busy with their work, their hands, faces and clothes stained with clay.

Wang was a farmer before he became a guide in the Yan'an Museum of Mao Zedong in 1971. The year the museum was founded, he came with a group of painters to help design the interior of the museum. He volunteered to be a model, helped sculptors gather clay, made the bases for sculptures and so on. He learned a great deal during his time there and soon mastered the art of making clay figures.

During the "cultural revolution", all the temples in Yan'an were destroyed. Later when they were being rebuilt, people chose Mao statues as their object of worship and even gave the temples names like "Saviour Temple" and "Temple of Three Elderly Men". In the latter temple, Mao, together with Zhou Enlai and Zhu De, were worshipped. Wang was invited to make clay statues of these figures by neighbouring villages. As he was so proficient in making Mao statues, he and his wife decided to turn their home into a museum of Mao Zedong clay figures. Since Mao had lived in Yan'an for 13 years, they decided to make 1,300 figurines for the opening of their museum, which will take place on the 100th anniversary of Mao's birth, December 26, 1993.



This wall slogan in Shaanxi is an example of the kind used during the "cultural revolution", and reads: There is nothing to fear in heaven or earth, as long as we follow Mao Zedong's words (by Hei Ming).



Mao portraits in Jiangxi are decorated with red fringe.



This couple put not one, but four Mao portraits on their wall (by Hei Ming).



These umbrellas sold in Hunan are in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Mao's birth (by Guang Hui).



This "book" resembling The Selected Works of Mao Zedong, on sale in Hunan, is actually a clock (by Guang Hui).

Mao, a devout atheist, has actually become a god, and is expected to bestow blessings on these countryfolk.

Small Mao portraits are also very useful. Drivers paste them on the windshields of their cars, believing that Mao will protect them from traffic accidents. So Mao has become a god for them as well, meant to ensure their safety.

As for souvenirs, every sort of object you can imagine has taken the Mao image as its theme. In Shaoshan, Mao's hometown, there are T-shirts, caps, satchels, umbrellas and so on, all printed with Mao portraits. A watch manufacturer in Guangzhou recently launched a series of Mao watches commemorating the 100th anniversary of this great man's birth. They are priced from 100 to 300 yuan;

the deluxe ones are inlaid with more than 40 diamonds.

During the ten years of the "cultural revolution", there was virtually nothing but Mao's works on sale in bookstores in mainland China. Today, again, books about Mao have become best-sellers. *Man, but not God*, published a few years back, was a great hit. It presents Mao as an ordinary human being and describes his life and relationships with people close to him. Many foreign tourists are fond of biographies of Mao and are keen to collect the *Selected Works of Mao Zedong* and the "little red book" of quotations published dur-



This shop in Hunan specializes in selling Mao portraits (by Guang Hui).

ing the "cultural revolution". These books are regarded as cultural icons from a crucial period in China's history.

Translated by Wang Mingjie



The Tale of a Barbershop

PHOTO BY
YUAN XUEJUN
TEXT BY LIU YANG

In Fengjie County's Daxi Township in Sichuan Province there is an ancient town located on one side of Qutang Gorge, one of the famous Three Gorges on the Yangtse River. This tiny town consists of several dozen households, one cobblestone street and one barbershop, owned by the sole barber in town.

One year during the "cultural revolution", the barber went to the county seat to have his own hair cut. He was

seen returning with a neat-looking roll of paper. The next day when he opened his shop again, customers saw dozens of Mao Zedong portraits pasted all over the walls of his shop. Customers began coming in ever greater numbers, often queuing up in front of his shop to wait their turn, particularly on market days. The old folks in town believed that it was Mao's portraits that had brought such fortune to the barbershop.

Recently plans have been made for the removal of the town in order to make way for the Three Gorges dam project. This unique barbershop will not be the only casualty on the demolition list, but its destruction will mean that these Mao-covered walls will no longer exist, and along with them will go a small piece of history.

Life at the Foot of a Mao Statue

PHOTOS BY CHEN ZHIXIAN ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU



On Sundays the city square is a place where people come to relax and enjoy themselves.

On a square in the centre of Jincheng City in southern Shanxi Province is a sculpture of Mao Zedong, now something of a rarity on the Chinese mainland.

Over 20 years ago townships, counties and cities as well as many factories, schools and military barracks all across the country erected their own Mao Zedong statues, with the total number reaching several hundred thousand. Years later, however, Mao Zedong personally declared that he did not want to see his statues weather-beaten all year round, having to stand guard late at night while other people were asleep. So, in the late 70s and early 80s, Mao Zedong's statues were demolished one by one. Today not a single Mao statue can be seen in cities with a population of over one million. Therefore it is somewhat of a surprise that the small city of Jincheng still boasts an original Mao Zedong sculpture.

After more than 20 years the sculpture remains strong and solid, except for a slender crack in the base and deep, long marks that have been left by water running from top to bottom. Like all other Mao statues, the size of this one has its



Book stalls are open for business rain or shine.

reasons. The height of its base is 7.1 metres, corresponding to July 1, the founding day of the Chinese Communist Party. The height from Mao Zedong's upheld hand to his feet measures 5.16 metres, and May 16 was the day when the "cultural revolution" started. The sculpture plus the base totals 12.26 metres, signifying December 26, Mao Zedong's birthday.

The underground foundation was made to be both deep and wide, large enough to support a seven or eight storey building. The person in charge of the project repeatedly emphasized that generation after generation of people would come to pay homage to the sculpture, so its foundation had to be extremely solid. He said that they should draw a lesson from the leaning Tower of Pisa.

Over a dozen years ago, the square on which Mao Zedong's statue stands was the city's meeting place for major political events,



After the people doing their morning exercises disperse, the square is transformed into a market.

however today it is the site of a prosperous market. Snack bars and stalls and carts selling sundry goods fill the square surrounding the sculpture. When I arrived, a roving acrobatic troupe was beating drums and gongs, attracting spectators who gathered around as thick as a wall. In the centre a bare-chested man with a whistle in his mouth and a long whip in his hand was directing two performing monkeys. One monkey limped around pulling a single-wheeled cart, in which another monkey sat, wearing a red vest and an ancient official's hat. One hand held aloft a banner while the other was raised in a military salute.

In the mornings the square serves as a sports ground. Before daybreak, people come to the square below Mao Zedong's statue to practise *taijiquan*, swordplay or dancing. On the day I was there, the largest group was an aerobic dance class, consisting mostly of women. Dressed in tight-fitting sportswear, hundreds of them danced to the energetic beat. In the evenings, a night market occupies the space, the air resounding with the shouts of pedlars and the clash of pans and dishes. Inviting smells waft over the square and modern electric lights cast a red glow over Mao Zedong's statue, his upheld arm pointing skywards, to the future.

Translated by Anne Yan



At night the square below Mao's statue is a world of colour, light and smells.



Mao Zedong's Only Grandson

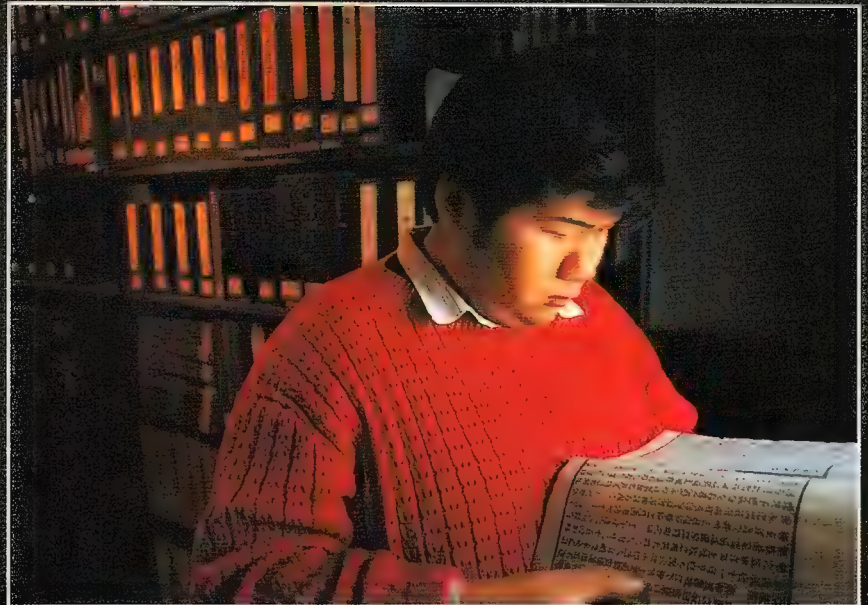
PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY WANG YAN

Large: 23-year-old Mao Xinyu is studying the history of the Chinese Communist Party for his Master's degree.

Top: Like his grandfather, Mao Xinyu believes that wisdom can be learned from reading Chinese classics.

Middle: On September 9 last year, the anniversary of the death of Mao Zedong, Mao Xinyu paid his respects to his grandfather at the memorial hall.

Bottom: Mao Xinyu, his father Mao Anqing and his mother Shao Hua enjoy a visit to the rostrum at Tian'anmen.



Mao Xinyu is the only child of Mao Anqing, Mao Zedong's son. This makes him the sole male descendant of the late chairman. Mao Xinyu is a tall, large man, and although he is only 23, he looks almost like Mao Zedong did in his old age. Once, a Beijing Opera troupe was planning to stage a modern drama and one of the characters was Mao Zedong. The head of the troupe invited Mao Xinyu to play the role. The moment the makeup was completed, he looked just like his grandfather. Unfortunately, he could not attend the daily rehearsals because of his studies, and in the end he had to give it up.

Mao Xinyu once related the story of his birth on 27 January, 1970: "My mother was having a difficult labour when she was giving birth to me. The doctors and nurses had tried all sorts of methods, but to no avail. The people waiting there became worried and went to ask my grandpa: whom should they save, the mother or the baby? Grandpa replied that both had to be saved. Soon after he expressed this wish, a miracle occurred and I was born safe and sound and my mother was unharmed. Grandpa immediately gave me my name Xinyu (New Era)."

Mao Xinyu was only six when Mao Zedong died. He vaguely remembers his parents taking him to pay respects to his grandfather's body but does not recall any details. He is truly sorry about this, and regrets that he was crying so much rather than looking at his grandfather.

Despite his being an only son and coming from an unusual family, Mao Xinyu's mother did not treat him as any different from other children. She helped him to become independent and wanted him to be an ordinary person who could stand on his own feet.

And so, Mao Xinyu has led an independent life ever since primary school. After he was admitted into the China People's University at 17 years old he moved into the student dormitory, with eight people to a room. He was only allowed home once a week and his monthly expenses were handed to him at the beginning of each month. How he would get through the entire month was his own business.

He wears the most ordinary sorts of clothes, mostly blue or black, some even with a patch here and there, allowing him to blend into any crowd. He once said, "My grandpa was very strict with my dad and my aunts, so they all live a simple and frugal life. My mother is just as hard on me."

Mao Xinyu was once treated to a meal by some classmates to celebrate his birthday. When the bill came they found that they did not have enough money, and one of the friends pointed Mao out to the restaurant owner and said, "He is the grandson of Chairman Mao." The owner replied, "If this is true, then the meal is on me. I won't charge you a cent." Mao Xinyu stood up and said rather angrily, "I am not. We'll bring you the money we owe you tomorrow." And he never went out with that friend again.

After he obtained a Bachelor's degree from the history department of the China People's University, Mao Xinyu entered another university to study for a Master's degree in the history of the Chinese Communist Party.

Mao Xinyu worships his grandfather, and like Mao Zedong, he is also fond of reading classics and studying Chinese history. One of his most well-thumbed books is a bound edition of the monumental *Twenty-Four Histories*, a record of China's dynastic history from remote antiquity to the Ming Dynasty. He has also tried his hand at writing a historical novel on the founder and first emperor of the Ming Dynasty.

In his daily life, traces of habits picked up from his grandfather are still evident, like eating baked sweet potatoes or coarse grain with rice. Mao Zedong's favourite dish was braised pork, which Mao Xinyu is just as fond of. When his friends tried to talk him out of eating less fatty meat in order to help control his weight, Mao replied, "My grandpa said this food was good for the brain." Mao Zedong liked swimming and his grandson also enjoys going to the swimming pool. Mao Zedong often quoted from classics and the grandson too enjoys chatting with friends and classmates, the subject of Chinese history never far from their lips. Mao Xinyu is also fond of dancing, like his




Losing weight is never easy.



Mao and his parents have dinner together on Chinese New Year's Eve.

grandfather, frequently inviting people to his house to dance the night away.

He often tells people that he likes whatever his grandfather liked. However he has two other hobbies that may not be hereditary. The first is his passion for watching martial arts videos, perhaps similar to Mao Zedong's devotion to Kunqu Opera. A second favourite is Chinese New Year festivities, since at that time all sorts of guests come to his home, many from faraway places, livening up his usually quiet house. He especially enjoys New Year's Eve, when he can light fire-crackers with his cousins, sing karaoke and dance through the night.

On the eve of the lunar New Year in 1992, Mao Xinyu as usual spent the night with his family and friends. After dinner, while everybody was sitting together and chatting, Mao left the crowd and went into his room. When his friends found out they thought he was feeling unwell, but he said, "I'm thinking of grandpa. Everyone is having a happy time with their family, but my grandpa is lying all alone in the memorial hall." 

Translated by Megina Kwan



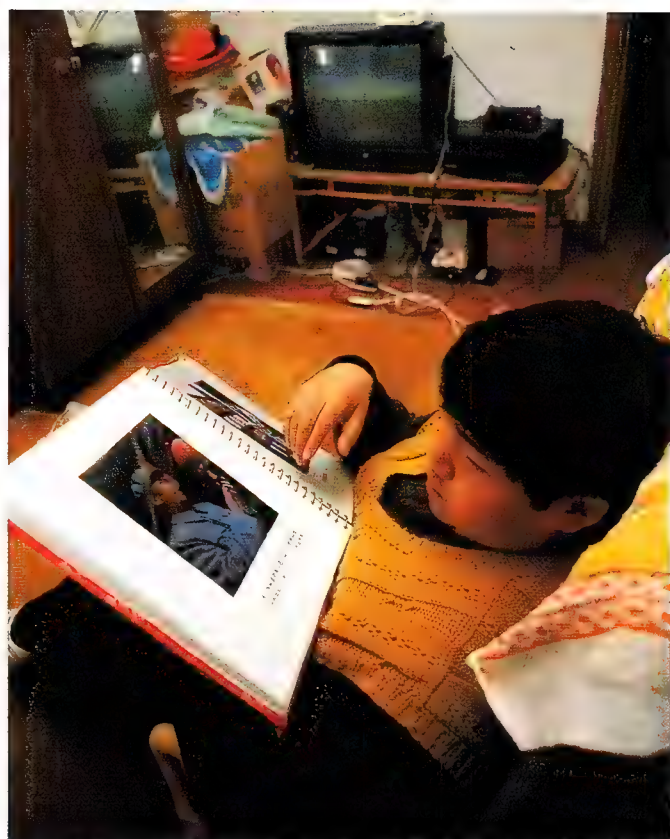
Friends and relatives celebrate his 22nd birthday.



Mao Xinyu's favourite subject of history is never far away as he chats with his classmates in the dorm.



In the cafeteria at his university



One of Mao Xinyu's favourite pastimes is to look at old pictures of his grandfather.



Mao Zedong's two daughters, Li Min and Li Na. Li Min (right) is the daughter of Mao Zedong and He Zizhen, while Li Na (left) is the daughter of Mao and Jiang Qing. Neither has taken the surname of their father, but instead use "Li", Jiang Qing's original surname. This photo was taken in 1976, not long after the death of their father (by Bai Song).

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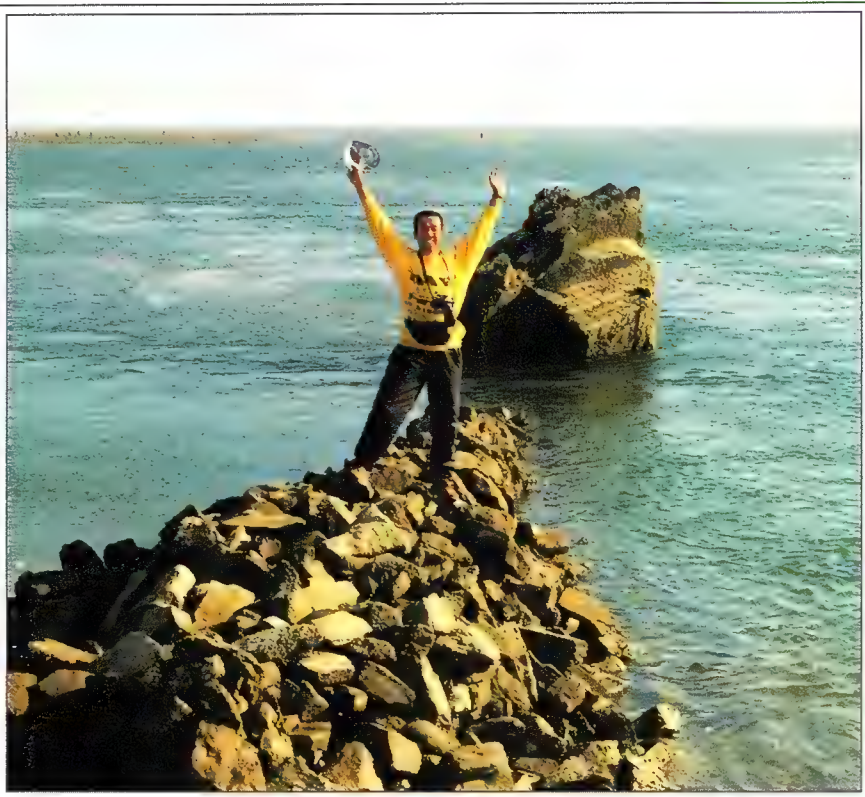
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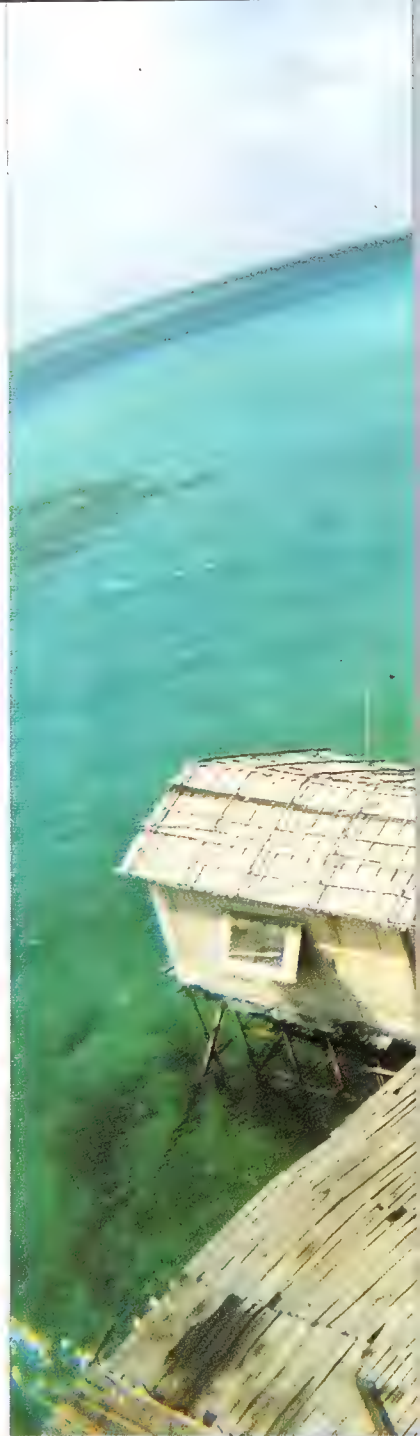
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End of the Journey: Part Three of
"By Motorbike Along
China's Borders"

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XU LIQUN



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The author rejoices as he finally arrives at Beibu Gulf in Guangxi (1).
 ■ A wide-angle view of Haikang County (2). ■ The extraordinarily large pumpkins grown on the Nansha Archipelago (3). ■ Stilt houses on Zhubi Reef in the Nansha Archipelago (4). ■ A bird's-eye view of the coast of Hainan Province (5).



EDITOR'S NOTE: In issues 109 and 121 of *China Tourism*, we carried the first two instalments of Xu Liqun's "By Motorbike Along China's Borders", a trip which he began in 1986. The first part of the trip took him from Beijing to Tibet, and the second part from Tibet to the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the far south. He recently sent in a follow-up describing his experiences as he travelled along China's southern and eastern seacoast until Heilongjiang, his original starting point and home province. This third and final section took him from December 1989 to September 1991 to complete, bringing to a close his incredible five-year odyssey.

On December 1, 1989, I saw the sea for the first time since beginning my trip. Scattered along China's 18,000 kilometres of coastline are more than a thousand islands of varying sizes. After spending so long in China's landlocked regions, I decided to occasionally abandon my motorcycle, my constant companion for years, and set out to sea to explore some of these "border" islands.

Wanwei Island and the Canal on Bailong Peninsula

Wanwei Island, located just off the coast of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and near the border with Vietnam, is actually a tip of the mainland which protrudes into the Beibu (Tongkin) Gulf. No more than ten metres above sea level, it has a temperate climate and, in the words of the local people, is a place where "the grass never withers in winter and flowers bloom all year round". Due to its low altitude, however, it floods easily when it rains and experiences drought when the weather is dry. An ethnic minority called the Jing grow sweet potatoes, taro, peanuts, maize and a wide variety of tropical and subtropical fruits on this sandy island-peninsula.

Fresh water coming from an extension of the Shiwandashan Mountain Range in the north washes down to empty into the sea here, carrying large quantities of organic substances. This, plus the pleasant temperature, makes the place a natural breeding ground for fish, shellfish and aquatic plants.

Perhaps because of this, the Jing began to immigrate here from Cat Ba and Do Son in Vietnam over 1,000 years ago. An 82-year-old Jing man from Wutou Village told me that his ancestors came to Wanwei over 500 years ago, and he himself belonged to the 17th generation of people to be born on the island. Originally called the Yue people, they became known as the Jing in the 1950s.



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A local opera actress in the city of Chaozhou in Guangdong Province (1). ■ This banyan tree has grown into the city wall in the town of Pinghai in Guangdong (2). ■ This structure in the coastal city of Shantou marks its position on the Tropic of Cancer (3). ■ Butterfly Gully in Huidong County in Guangdong is home to thousands of butterflies (4). ■ Guangzhou residents rush to work in the morning across Haizhu Bridge (5).

After two days and nights on the sea, we finally sighted Zhubi Reef. On a map this reef looks like a large beetle on the surface of the sea, but actually most of it is buried under water, as I could clearly see from the deck of our ship. The captain told me that even during the lowest tide, it rises above the water no more than 40 centimetres.

I transferred to a small boat to get to Zhubi Reef. The water here looked greener than elsewhere, and was decorated with a beautiful display of colours from both fish and coral. Reinforced cement towers now stand on top of the reef, partly replacing the original stilt bamboo huts.

For the occupants of the towers, the greatest difficulty is the shortage of fresh water, which has to be brought over from the mainland 1,200 kilometres away. Every drop is precious, therefore water for drinking, taking baths and washing clothes is strictly rationed.

Larger than Zhubi Reef, the man-made Yongshu Islet is about the size of three to four basketball courts, and is crowned with a structure shaped like a castle. Next I visited the Huayang and Chigua reefs, and after a week of touring the islands in the South China Sea, I returned to Zhanjiang.

The Thunderous Leizhou Peninsula

I set out on my motorbike from Zhanjiang and headed towards Hainan Island, but along the way stopped for a few days on Leizhou Peninsula.

Haikang County, in the centre of the peninsula, was the seat of Leizhou Prefecture during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). As the place was deep in the southern border regions and far away from the political centre of the country, it became an ideal place to send deposed officials. During the Song Dynasty (960-1279) alone, 12 ministers from the imperial court were exiled here. One document suggests that in total seven prime ministers, ten loyal ministers and generals and two traitorous ministers were exiled to Leizhou. They brought with them the culture and civilization of the Central Plains, and left behind tales of good deeds done on the peninsula.

I went to visit Tianning Temple, built 1,200 years ago, and Leizu Temple. I learned that the name of the peninsula, Leizhou (Land of Thunder), came into being because thunderstorms occur very frequently here, especially between June and September.

I was told that on the Bailong Peninsula opposite Wanwei, there was a large, ancient canal. I went to take a look, and when I arrived I saw the water from the canal overflowing into the rice paddies of two neighbouring villages. The residents told me that the canal cut through the peninsula from east to west for three kilometres. At the widest section, it is 25 metres while at the narrowest point only two metres wide. The canal provides irrigation to over 150 hectares of land.

Historical documents indicate that the canal was dug sometime between 808-868. But the locals prefer to believe the legend that it was built by immortals, therefore they call it the Immortals' Canal.

Reefs in the Nansha Archipelago

When I arrived at Zhanjiang, a port city in Guangdong Province, I again left my motorbike on the mainland and went to have a look at the Nansha Archipelago. Consisting of more than 500 isles, reefs and submerged islets, the Nansha Archipelago was formed by coral accumulated over hundreds of millions of years. During high tide most of the islets are submerged by water, only appearing when the tide retreats.



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A fire dragon dance was performed during the Narcissus Festival in Fujian's Zhangzhou (1). ■ In 1958 furnaces were built all across China to melt metal and iron objects for "steelmaking". These now defunct furnaces are in Fujian's Nanjing County (2). ■ Descendants of Manchus in Fujian's Changle County make their own local brand of steamed bread (3). ■ A typical Hui'an woman (4). ■ Mr. Qiu Daquan of Shishi City in Fujian is well known for his gardening abilities (5).



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Hainan's Coconut Island

Caught in the middle of heavy traffic, I finally drove my motorcycle onto a ferry boat and crossed the Qiongzhou Strait. Since Hainan Island, originally part of Guangdong Province, became a single province, there has been a great deal of press coverage on this island-province. However, I was interested in only one place — the little-known Coconut Island in the Lingshui Li Autonomous County on the southern coast of Hainan.

Eight kilometres outside the county town of Lingshui, I turned into a village, passed a narrow and muddy road and saw Coconut Island across the Lingshui River. It is actually an islet in the middle of the river where it empties into the sea. I took a boat to the island, which is covered only with groves of tall and graceful coconut trees. Occasionally I ran into a thatched hut — temporary dwellings for vegetable growers. In my opinion the coconut groves here are much more attractive than the more well-known Dongjiao, which has been turned into a tourist spot.

At the foot of Wuzhi (Five Finger) Mountain is Wuzhishan Village, also known as Shuiman Village after the name of a local type of tea. I stayed a night there in order to take photographs, and met some Li people, a local ethnic group. They treated me to some Shuiman tea, which tasted bitter at first but revealed a sweetness after a few sips. The men who drank tea with me told me stories about wild animals on the mountain, speaking in standard Chinese for my benefit. They said that there was a kind of deer which lived by the water, and that there were other animals — but they did not know how to say their names in standard Chinese. I finally understood what they were driving at: the wild animals on Wuzhi Mountain were steadily decreasing in number.

My hosts entertained me with wine and food. The wine was made of rice, as many Chinese wines are, but the food was quite a novelty: deep fried beetles. This was the first time I had ever had beetles. As the oil lamp in the house was rather dim, I brought out my cigarette lighter to have a closer look at what I was about to eat. The shell and wings of the beetles had been taken out and after being fried, were each about the size of a maize kernel. They told me that these beetles lived in trees and they were most common in April and May. To catch them, the best time was early morning when the dew was heavy and it was difficult for them to fly. One simply had to shake a tree and the beetles would fall down.

The Drifters of Naozhou and a Village in Daya Bay

When I returned to Leizhou Peninsula after my visit to Hainan Island, I went to Naozhou Island at the entrance of Leizhou Bay. The lighthouse on the island, built by the French in 1899, is quite well-known in the history of navigation. On the island, I ran into some fishing folk called the Danjia, who live on their boats year round.

One family I visited had two boats. The grandparents lived on the small boat, while the father and mother lived on the newly built larger boat, together with their brother and sister, two children and two hens they were raising. The two small children had ropes tied to their waist and attached to a window frame so that they would not fall into the water. There are many Danjia people along the coastal areas of eastern Guangdong who rarely go ashore. People on the mainland call them "drifting" people.

The Huidong people living in the town of Pinghai on the east bank of Daya Bay speak a peculiar dialect that is neither Cantonese nor Hakka. It sounds more like standard Chinese except that the tones are not right. The local people describe this particular dialect as "military speech".

Originally, most of the Leizhou people came from southern Fujian, and today the Leizhou dialect is a localized form of the southern Fujian dialect. I was told that during slack seasons, farmers throughout Haikang County hold hundreds of singing competitions. Unfortunately, I came at the wrong time and was not able to attend any.

In the past rice was the only product grown here, but now the red soil of Leizhou is covered with pineapple, orange, banana, lichee, longan, mango, pomegranate, watermelon and other orchards. Sugarcane is virtually everywhere, thus there is never a shortage of sweet things to eat.

In the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) a border garrison was built here, and the ancient town structure still stands today. The four city gates are still intact despite many battles. There is a temple built on top of each gate where gods are worshipped — local people say that the gods and temples are why the city gates have not collapsed in all this time. Now that the people in this ancient military town are more well-to-do, they go and pray to the gods before any important event or transaction, therefore incense burns continually atop the four gates.

When the Ming emperors dispatched troops to defend the southern coast, they sent soldiers native to the Central Plains, who built towns and houses in the traditional central Chinese style. They brought their families with them and settled here, and it is their descendants that speak “military speech”.

Chaozhou's Earthen Dwellings

I drove along Guangdong's coast until I reached Chaozhou, a beautiful area near the border with Fujian. For generations, people here have worked the land and cultivated crops, turning the place into a rich and fertile region.

In Kangmei Village outside the city of Chaozhou, there is a huge round structure named Zuanmei Building, somewhat similar to the lower part of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. The structure consists of a protective earthen wall four to six metres high with an arched gate. On the interior of the circular wall are 32 residences in three storeys. Opposite the arched gate is a temple, and a well sits in the central courtyard area.

The 32 families living in the 32 residences, which have been there for more than 400 years, are all surnamed Zeng. This round clan house is typical of Hakka earthen dwellings in Fujian, with the most representative of them found in Yongding County. Little did I expect to see such structures in Guangdong, let alone so many of them.

According to 1979 statistics the She people, an ethnic minority group who refer to themselves as “mountain guests”, had a population of over 2,200 in Guangdong. In Wenci Town in Chaozhou City, I visited a She village. The first thing that caught my eye as I approached the village was a large banana grove, past which was a primary school with more than 70 students. All the 370 people living in the village are She, and speak both the She language and the Chaozhou dialect, but few understand standard Chinese. Documents indicate that the She are a branch of the Yao people, another ethnic minority in southern China. Apart from their own distinctive language, the She people in the village differ little from the Han Chinese in terms of customs and appearance.

January 6 was a damp and gloomy day. I wrapped myself up in three layers of clothes, left the province of Guangdong and entered Fujian. I decided to stop first at Dongshan Island, which is connected with the mainland by a dike.

What impressed me most here was a cement aqueduct stretching for 4,000 metres on top of numerous piers. It stands as a testimony to the effort required to bring the island inhabitants fresh water. The highways are flanked with fields of peanuts, mung beans, watermelons and asparagus. Dongshan has the highest asparagus yield in China, with the vegetable selling both domestically and abroad.

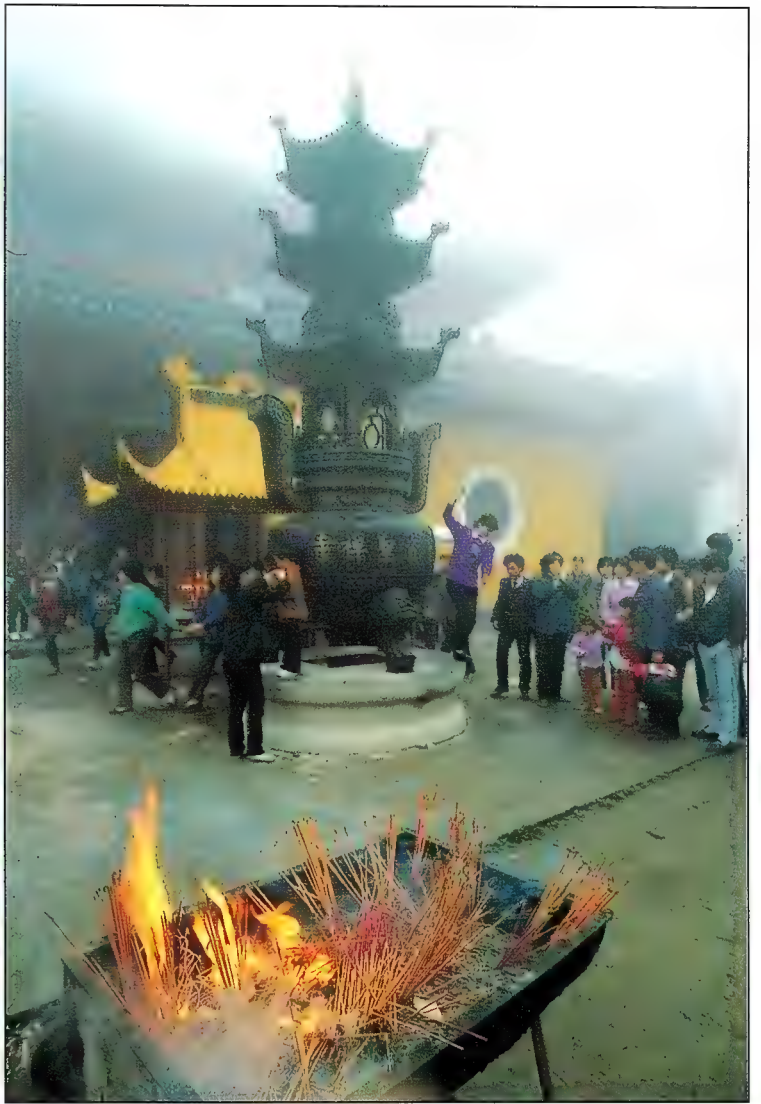
From Dongshan Island, I drove non-stop all the way to Zhangzhou in order to attend the Narcissus Festival there. Caiban Village in Longhai County southeast of Zhangzhou is known as the home of the narcissus. Outside the village, large patches of neatly arranged narcissus nurseries stretched as far as the eye could see.

Every family in the village's entire population of more than 1,000 cultivate the flower, just as other farmers might grow grain or vegetables. When I entered the village, I saw flowers everywhere, pinned to people's hair, held in hands and placed high on walls and in corners of houses.

Pingtan, an Ancient Horse Farm and on to Zhejiang

My next stop was the city of Xiamen, where I had a pleasant time touring the scenic Gulangyu Islet, and I then proceeded on to Dadeng and Jiaoyu isles by boat. After that I found myself in Shishi City,





The author in Shanghai (1). ■ Large numbers of pilgrims come to Putuo Temple in Zhejiang Province to pray (2). ■ This vegetable patch still remains despite the rapid development of Shanghai's Pudong District (3). ■ In the town of Xikou in Zhejiang Province is the long-standing Xuedou Temple, which attracts continuous streams of pilgrims (4). ■ Farmer Chen Weixiong's entire family, who live in Jinshan County outside of Shanghai, know how to paint (5).



A boat festival at Qintong in Jiangsu Province (1). ■ The mouth of the Yellow River meets the sea in Shandong's Kenli County (2). ■ No one knows the history behind this beautiful memorial archway in Shandong's Penglai City (3). ■ Local people collect shellfish on Changdao Island north of Penglai (4). ■ The family members of workers at the Shengli Oilfield in Dongying City in Shandong work as farmers (5).

passed Quanzhou, went to Chongwu where I saw the beautifully dressed women of Hui'an and finally ended up at Pingtan Island, a fairly large island off the city of Putian.

I drove my motorbike onto a ferry boat, which sailed despite the strong winds and huge waves. I heard that in weather worse than this, the ferry pier is closed and the isles become isolated from the rest of the world.

Pingtan, also known as Haishan or Lan Island, was a horse farm during the Tang Dynasty. Later, during the Song Dynasty, an official organization set up to supervise the farm was established. One story has it that the horses here were called "descendants of the dragon" as they had unusual patterns on their manes. Pingtan is China's fifth largest island, and serves today as the seat of a county comprising 126 islets and a total area of 370 square kilometres.

On the island is a lake called "36-Leg Lake", the largest island lake in the entire country. I climbed to a good vantage point, took some pictures and then went down to the Junshan Plain, which is studded with farmland and stone houses. The two-storey stone houses are the dwellings of farmers and fishermen, and are crowned with stone slabs set on top of tiles, rather than the more common eaves. Local farmers told me that since the place is frequently buffeted by typhoons, people do not dare to build eaves and instead put heavy stone slabs on the tiles for better protection.

I bid farewell to Fujian and crossed over to Zhejiang Province. At Wenzhou I decided to visit the Dongtou Islands, which are accessible by a four-hour boat ride, thus I again left my motorbike behind.

The Dongtou Islands consist of 103 islets and 259 reefs. When I arrived, the main island was shrouded in fog and rain and my visit was reduced to a quick look-around. The stone houses here also had two storeys, with the lower storey used as the living room and the



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upper storey for bedrooms. The island residents looked like northerners, but spoke an eastern Fujian dialect which was totally different from that of Wenzhou just across the sea.

In the fog and drizzle I saw green patches of vegetable gardens where cabbages, cauliflower, peas and broad beans were growing. In the spring, sweet potatoes are also planted, since the islanders love to have shredded sweet potatoes and noodles made of sweet potatoes. A group of women were washing clothes around a well, and despite the rain, they still hung their washing outside. On the beach, women were mending fishing nets in the rain and men were discussing their plans to go out fishing. Obviously people here are very used to this type of weather.

A Lantern Festival in Wenzhou

I returned to Wenzhou just in time for the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the first lunar month. Friends living in Ou Hai County seat took me to Wuyan Town to attend the festival.

Eager to see the town before darkness fell, I walked the streets in the rain. A small river cut through the town, and by the river in the town centre, a four-metre-high, ten-metre-long lantern in the shape of a dragon stood by a bridge. A motor fixed to the lower part of the dragon provided illumination. I found it a clever combination of modern technology and tradition.



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undoubtedly fish. As soon as I stepped onto the island, people began telling me that Zhoushan is located at a point where the Qiantang, Yongjiang and Yangtse rivers empty into the sea, which is the reason for the abundance of fish in the region.

The next day I went to Zhangzhou, a fishing village on Zhujiadian Island. On the hill slopes were a number of brightly-coloured buildings. If I had not been told that they were fishermen's homes, I would have thought they were seaside villas. In the village I was surprised to see no old fishermen, who traditionally dress in all red. My local guide was a fisherman's daughter, who wore a dark blue Western suit with a tie and high heels. Modernization has reached even these island villages, changing age-old customs and giving birth to a new generation of island-dwellers.

On the beach, fishermen were busily occupied with their fishing boats. My guide told me these boats were called "boats that go beyond the line", because due to the recent decrease in fish production along the coast, they were forced to go farther and farther out to sea to catch fish.

The Farmer Paintings of Jinshan

I returned to land and continued on to Shaoxing, Hangzhou and then Shanghai. I felt no need to visit the celebrated West Lake in Hangzhou, nor was I interested in seeing the metropolis of Shanghai. My destination was Jinshan, a suburban county outside of Shanghai and home to several well-known painters, who have created a new form of modern art called farmer paintings.

The small village I visited looked typical of those south of the Yangtse River. As I turned off the highway and onto the narrow path leading to the village, mud began sticking to the wheels of my motor-bike and I had to leave it by the roadside.

Before we finished our dinner, gongs and drums began sounding: the festivities had begun. Horses, people, honour guards, music bands and flag troops all clad in ancient costumes marched in formation in the streets and narrow alleys. When they came to the front of each house, the hosts set off firecrackers and lit up rice stalks as a way of showing their welcome.

There were five such parades, which finally merged into one large parade. The participants recited Buddhist scriptures and carried the dragon lantern on their shoulders, and the merry-making continued well into the wee hours.

Next I visited the scenic Yandang Mountains and the port city of Ningbo. Then I once again set out to sea on a ferry, this time to the islands in the Zhoushan Archipelago. Zhoushan's best resource is

I walked along the ridges of fields, crossed over several small bridges, walked along a winding road and finally came to the house of Cao Huiying, a farmer and painter. Several of her works have appeared in an album jointly published by China and Japan, and she is now a member of the Union of Chinese Artists. In the past few years she has earned over 20,000 yuan from her paintings, the income of which she put into her new three-storey house.

Passing by a field, I saw farmers sowing watermelon seeds using a unique method. They were employing a frame to first make the soil into cup-like shapes, after which they put the seeds inside, added plant ash and chemical fertilizers, wrapped them up with plastic sheeting and then placed them in a wheat field. They told me that after they harvested the wheat, they would transplant the watermelon seedlings into the wheat field. The watermelon harvesting season was from June to July, after which they would grow rice in the same field. They would bring in the rice in November and sow the wheat seeds next. This rotation method of farming watermelons, wheat and rice was the sole occupation of these suburban farmers.

Another local farmer painter is 38-year-old Chen Weixiong, whose paintings are especially well-liked by foreigners. He has sold more than 100 copies of a painting called *Sweeping Snow*, and is an experienced watermelon grower as well. He has also written a book, and both he and his wife work under the auspices of the county's Farmer Painting Society. Their combined yearly income is over 20,000 yuan, however during the busy agricultural season, they always return to their fields.

In artistic technique, Jinshan farmer paintings follow the same tradition as ancient Chinese murals and New Year pictures. They are strong in composition and feature a close-knit arrangement of each component part. The painters meticulously portray every detail, and

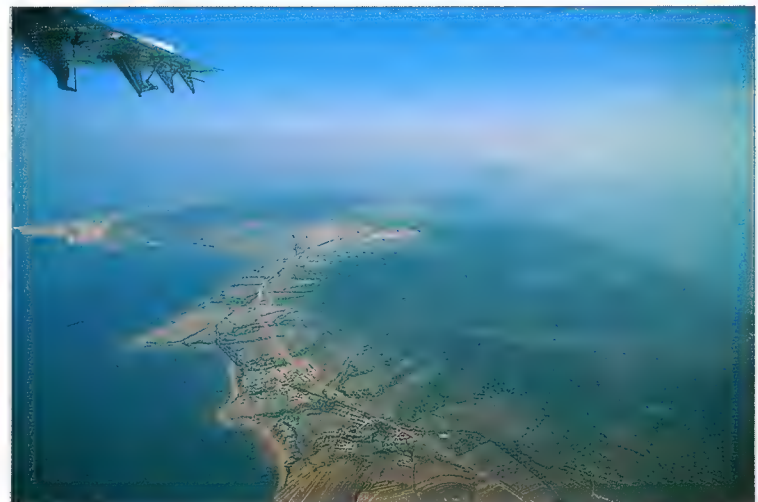
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Twin sisters in Dalian, Liaoning Province (1). ■ A panoramic view of the Changshan Archipelago in Liaoning (2). ■ The traditional starting point of the Great Wall — Laolongtou at Shanhaiguan Pass in Hebei (3). ■ Visitors to Dandong Park on the bank of the Yalu River in Liaoning do the Yangko Dance (4). ■ Farmers from the Fengcheng Manchu Autonomous County in Liaoning have their meals while sitting on a kang (5). ■ Farmers from Hedian Village in Liaoning offer prayers (6).



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although every inch of the paper is utilized, the paintings never appear crowded or cramped.

Along the Coast of Jiangsu

Just north of Shanghai is a long thin island which lies at the mouth of the Yangtse River's entrance into the sea. Called Chongming, it is the third largest island in China, formed from silt carried in from the Yangtse. It is said that the island grows with each passing year: in the past 40 years it has become twice its original size.

The island features many ancient structures dating back to the Ming Dynasty, including a Confucian Temple built in 1622, a pagoda and a temple. However, it was the houses on the island that most caught my attention. The early settlers here, perhaps because they were small in number, developed their own style of architecture singularly suited to their environment. To build a house they first dig a ditch, then use the dug-up earth to build a foundation for the house. The house is built on top of the elevated foundation, and the ditch becomes a kind of moat — an ideal protection against both floods and theft. It is also used for storing water and cultivating fish, providing many of the inhabitants' needs all at once.

Entering Jiangsu Province, I passed large tracts of rape plants, their golden flowers in full bloom. I drove past Lüsi Harbour and Sheyang Harbour and arrived at the city of Yancheng, where I stopped to visit the suburban town of Biancang, known for its special species of peonies.

In Biancang, I was told a wonderful story about how the peony

angel makes peonies bloom twice a year, in April and November. During the second blooming season in November, all the leaves of the peony plants fall off, leaving nothing but the blossoming peonies and withered branches, a rare sight in the plant kingdom. Unfortunately I came at the wrong season, and did not see a single flower.

A gardener told me that there were ten peony plants here over 700 years old. They seem to have a peculiar way of understanding people, as they bloom twice a year but only when there are happy events. It is said that during the Chinese people's eight-year war of resistance against the Japanese invasion during World War II, these peonies did not blossom even once.

The Historic Shandong Peninsula

I travelled along the coast until Ganyu, a county town near the border of Shandong. Ganyu was the home of Xu Fu, a legendary personage better known in Japan than in China. The story goes that over 2,000 years ago the first Qin Emperor sent Xu Fu, along with 3,000 young boys and girls, to look for the elixir of immortality in what are today Japanese islands.

Xu Fu and his contingent departed China but never returned, becoming the first settlers on the Japanese islands. In Japan, Xu Fu has always been worshipped as the father of the nation. In recent years, as more and more Japanese have come to Ganyu, the Xu Fu Temple there has been rebuilt, a tablet at the entrance to Xu Fu Village has been erected and a Xu Fu Festival staged.

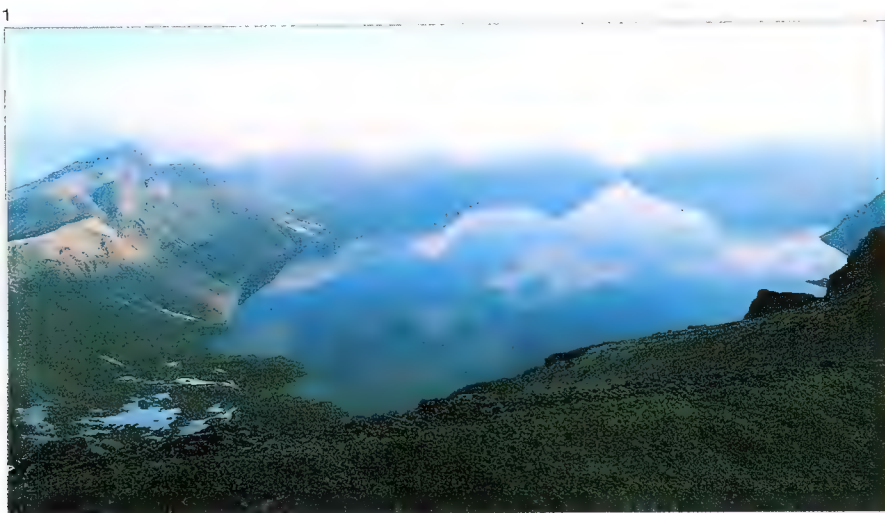
I met with an elderly man who proclaimed to be the 70th-generation descendant of Xu Fu. Actually, in Xu Fu Village the family name of Xu has long since disappeared. When the first Qin Emperor found out that Xu Fu had not returned, he had the whole Xu clan killed. Villagers with the same surname fled and changed their names. Today, although none of the villagers are called Xu, they insist they are indeed the descendants of Xu Fu.

I continued northward to Shandong Province, whose residents have always been noted for their honesty, straightforwardness and ability to endure hardships. In Qingdao, friends from the city's Cultural Bureau took me to a party at the Dongfang Hotel. My friends raised their cups and said to me: "Here, you're at home," and I realized at once why Shandong people are reputed to be among China's most warm-hearted.

Just off the coast of Yantai on the Shandong Peninsula is an island called Yangma (Horse Raising) Island, said to be the location of a horse farm belonging to the first Qin Emperor. In recent years, a dike has been built joining the island with the mainland. As I walked around the island, however, I saw no traces of that farm from over 2,000 years ago — what I found instead were rocks once used for tethering horses built in the walls of houses. I was told that in the past, the more such rocks there were, the more prosperous and powerful the families were. The rocks were indications that the family was often visited by people on horseback, who then were always people with high social status.

Next I drove to Penglai on the northern end of the peninsula, where I took a ferry to Changdao (Long Island), a 50-minute boat trip. Again, I had to leave my motorbike on the mainland. On the island I went straight to the county museum, which had an exhibition on early hu-





man civilization in the area 6,000 years ago. The exhibition offered convincing evidence that at that time there was already a strong island culture in existence.

Early next morning, I went to take some photos of the sea. On top of a small hill, I had a bird's-eye view of Yueya (Crescent Moon) Bay, where the residents of Changdao cultivate scallops. Across the sea opposite the island is the Liaodong Peninsula in Liaoning Province. I was told that in the past when times were difficult, Shandong residents would set out from here and travel across the ocean to Liaoning to seek a better place to make a living.

Laizhou Bay and the Great Wall

I continued along Laizhou Bay and arrived in Dongying, a city whose name means East Barracks and which was formed by two villages, called Dongying and Xiyong (West Barracks). When the Tang-dynasty Emperor Li Shimin (r. 627-649) was preparing to sail for Korea he had his expedition forces stationed here, thus the name "ying" (barracks). Today, place names with the character "ying" in them are still very common in the region.

Home to the headquarters of the Shengli Oilfield, the young city of Dongying is a true "oil city". The Laizhou Bay area produces a quarter of the nation's crude oil and the Shengli Oilfield ranks second in the country. The Yellow River passes by the city on its way to the sea, and the water in this part of the river flows peacefully to the east. Before I left the Yellow River, I bent down and scooped up some water from the river to put in a bottle and take with me as a souvenir.

After crossing the Yellow River and driving for a while, I came to the border of Hebei Province. I drove past Haixing, Huanghua, Dagou, Tianjin and arrived at Beijing, where I rested for a few days. Then I pushed on northward.

In Leting County, a farmer driving without a licence broke the windshield of my motorcycle. Annoyed, I decided to give up the idea of visiting the seaside resort of Beidaihe and the city of Qinhuangdao, and went straight to Shanhaiguan, the first pass of the Great Wall as it snakes its way west.

At the sight of the ancient Great Wall and Shanhaiguan Tower, I was overwhelmed with a sense of history. At the foot of the tower, the trees were green and the flowers in full bloom. A structure called Old Dragon's Head nearby is where the Great Wall meets the sea. I could not leave without taking a few photos of Shanhaiguan, even though latest studies suggest that the pass is actually not the true beginning of the Great Wall.



On the morning of the next day, I stood atop the Great Wall at Jiaoshan, where I had a panoramic view of the Great Wall. To the west are the lofty Yanshan Mountains while to the east the sea stretches on endlessly. I could not help thinking that although so much time has passed, the mountains, the sea, the wall and the towers all probably look much as they did hundreds of years ago.

Sunrise on the Changshan Islands

Eager to complete my "island photography" project, I drove along the coast of Dalian, located at the tip of the Liaoning Peninsula, where I boarded a plane to visit the Changshan Islands. The Greater Changshan Island, the seat of Changhai County, is the largest of this group of islands. Early in the morning of the second day of my stay on the island, I climbed up a small hill facing the sea. A ray of sunlight shot through the clouds on the horizon and reddened the entire sea, illuminating the Lesser Changshan Island in the distance.

Spreading across the continental shelf in the northern part of the Yellow Sea, the Changshan Islands consist of 112 islands and reefs, covering a total land area of 152 square kilometres. Due to their abundance of sea cucumbers, abalone, shrimp, scallops and other shellfish, the islands are known as a "natural fish pond".

On Zhangzi Island, the sixth largest in the group, I saw a group of women mending scallop nets. They all wore scarves on their heads which covered everything except their eyes. The residents of this island were originally natives of Zhucheng County in Shandong, therefore the only dialect one hears is the Shandong dialect.

The Changshan Islands suffer from a shortage of fresh water, therefore the inhabitants of Zhangzi Island have built a mechanism on



A panoramic view of Tianchi Lake in the Changbai Mountains in Jilin Province (1). ■ The city of Tumen sits bordering northern Korea (2). ■ This pyramidal General's Tomb belongs to the 20th king of Gaogouli, situated in Ji'an City in Jilin Province (3). ■ The ginseng found in Changbai County is known for its high quality (4). ■ A family of Korean descent in Tumen City in Jilin are celebrating the 60th birthday of one of their members (5).



their roofs to collect rain water, which is then piped into the house. In dry weather the water shortage is naturally more severe, and washing clothes and taking a bath become great luxuries.

History Along the Korean Border

I had now traversed the entire coast of the Liaodong Peninsula, where the soil is very dry, reddish-yellow in colour, and not very fertile. Along the winding coastline, I passed beaches, marshes, bays and gulfs. The peninsula has been divided into villages, towns, counties and cities, and the land tilled and worked on all year round. Likewise in the sea, fishing goes on year in and year out.

As I drove northward a strong wind began blowing and it began raining. Still, I managed to cover 360 kilometres in one day, and arrived in Dandong City in the evening. After a short stay in Dandong, a city on the border with North Korea, I returned to Donggou County in order to see the demarcation line between the two countries, where the Yalu River meets the Yellow Sea. Tablets have been erected on both sides, marking the end of China's eastern coast.

At this point, I had completed my travels along China's 18,000

kilometres of coastline. I sighed with relief as my island-hopping was over and I was once again on solid land. My next stop was the purported true start of the Great Wall.

As mentioned earlier, the tower at Shanhaiguan Pass had, until now, long been regarded as the starting point of the Great Wall. However, recently people have begun to redefine the beginning of the wall, and have come to the conclusion that it actually starts at the foot of Hushan (Tiger Hill) by the Yalu River, ten kilometres northeast of Dandong. The hill is rather small and several farmer families live at its foot. The wall of their courtyards were built with Great Wall bricks, a sure indication that the wall was not far away.

What remains of the real "first watchtower of the Great Wall" is now just an earthen mound. I learned that the tower structure and the wall here were originally built by laying two walls with stones and bricks and stuffing the space in between with sand and earth. The Great Wall at Tiger Hill was built during the Ming Dynasty to prevent an invasion from the Yalu River, and the watchtower served the purpose of informing defence forces of the enemy's position and direction.



1

The Ruins of an Ancient Kingdom in Ji'an

After Dandong, I visited Kuandian, Hedian and Yongdian, originally towns built to station troops and store grain and fodder. Next, I went to the city of Ji'an City at the southernmost tip of Jilin Province.

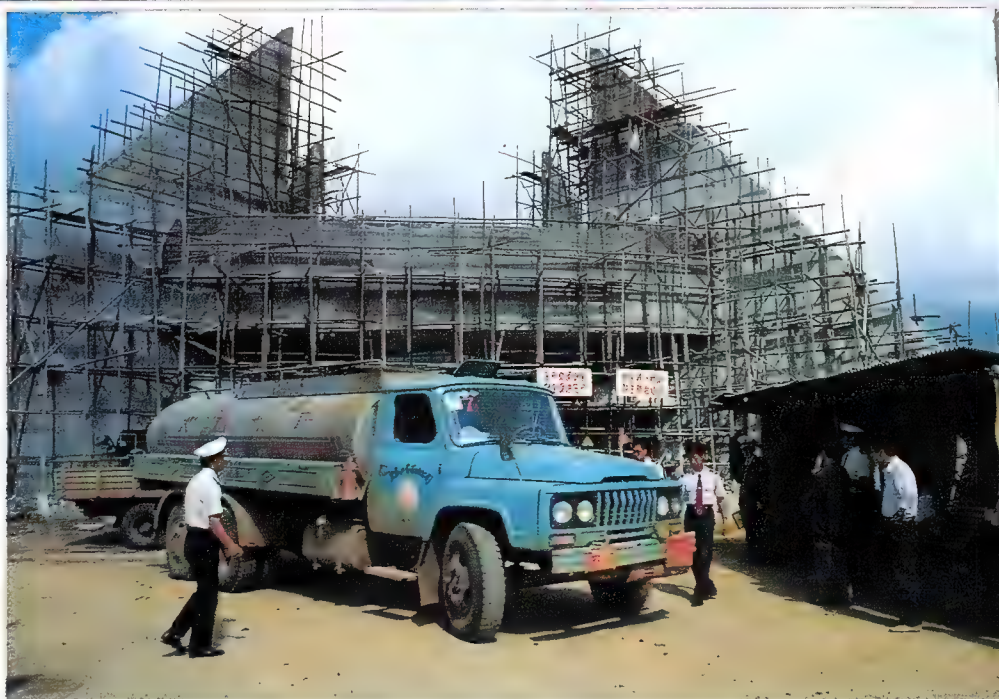
In 37 B.C., the Gaogouli Kingdom was established. Forty years later, the second king moved the imperial court to today's Ji'an and had a new capital built. For a period of more than 400 years, from 3 B.C. to A.D. 427, 20 kings of the Gaogouli Kingdom made their capital here. The kingdom's capital was moved to Pyongyang in 427, and Ji'an became an auxiliary capital. Thus, today's Ji'an was once the cradle of the rise and fall of an ancient kingdom, and there are still many reminders of its glorious past.

Now, more than 1,000 years later, I came to Ji'an to visit the site of the ancient capital, but found nothing except piles of stones. However, underneath them are the tombs belonging to people from this tribe. In Donggou Valley alone, which is 16 kilometres long and several kilometres wide, there are more than 11,000 ancient tombs — a staggering number.

At the foot of Longshan Hill, five kilometres from the city proper, is the "General's Tomb", belonging to the 20th king of Gaogouli. The tomb was built in a square with over 1,100 pieces of meticulously carved granite between the years 413 and 490. At its bottom the tomb is 31.58 metres long and has seven layers, making it a total of 12.4 metres high. The chamber is in the middle of the fifth layer. I walked around the tomb three times in order to have a careful and close look at what is also known as an "Oriental pyramid".

My next stop was Dalizi Town in Linjiang County. Here I found the very spot where the last Chinese emperor announced his abdication. Previously a canteen, the place today serves as a warehouse for a department store.

Pu Yi, dethroned as the last Qing Dynasty emperor after the Revolution of 1911, was reinstated by the Japanese in March 1934. On August 11, 1945, just before the Japanese surrendered, the emperor



2

fled to Dalizi from the city of Changchun. On the 17th, he stepped down and the puppet Manchukuo regime perished for ever.

Three Trips to Tianchi Lake in the Changbai Mountains

Like a huge piece of green jade inlaid in the undulating Changbai mountain chain, Tianchi Lake sits directly on the border with Korea. As soon as I arrived I set to work with my camera, however in less than a minute fog had engulfed the entire lake.

This was the first time I had ever ascended the Changbai Mountains to photograph Tianchi Lake. It seemed that perhaps I had come a long way for nothing. Due to the treacherous conditions on the mountains, I had left my motorcycle behind and had driven here in a car with some friends.

The distance between Changbai County and the top of the Changbai Mountains was just 98 kilometres, but the poor road conditions made driving very difficult. Halfway up the mountain, the forests thinned out and tundras, meadows and azaleas came into view. When we had almost reached the top, snow blocked the path. Though it was July, the ice and snow on the shady side of the mountain remained frozen solid. I later learned that every year local people have to use dynamite

to blast open the road. The four of us had to leave our car and walk the rest of the way. Suddenly a dark cloud from the west appeared above us and began pelting us with hail. A short while later, the ground was covered with a layer of crystal white.

We continued climbing but were still unable to tell how far Tianchi Lake was. Finally, we arrived at the top and got a partial view of the lake. There are actually three ways to reach the lake, with each route offering a different vantage point from which to photograph it and the surrounding mountains. We decided to attempt all three routes, therefore the second time we started out in the town of Songjianghe in Fusong County. We drove for 60 kilometres to a point halfway up the mountain, and walked to the top. By the time we arrived at the lake it was after 7:00 in the evening. I took pictures until 8:10, when the sun finally set and we reluctantly departed.

The third time, we set out from Erdaobaihe Town in Antu County and drove up a newly completed highway all the way to the

mountaintop. Though the trip up was easy, the lake was totally shrouded in heavy fog, and I had no choice but to wait for it to clear. It was very cold and we had to take shelter inside the car. Forty-five minutes later, the sky cleared and the lake revealed its stunning beauty. I quickly got out my camera and started taking pictures, but soon the lake was lost in fog again. I looked at my watch: I had only had 20 minutes before I had to stop.

Tianchi Lake is actually the mouth of a volcano, and over time water has accumulated here to form a highland lake. Of the 16 mountain peaks around the lake, Baiyun (White Cloud) Peak is the tallest. At 2,691 metres above sea level, it is also the tallest peak in Northeast China, and is actually the cone of another volcano.

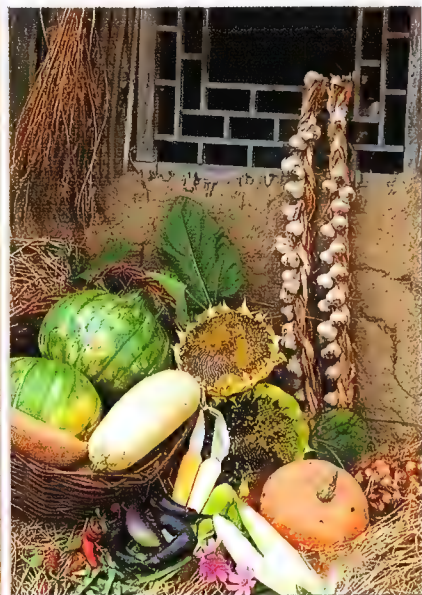
Rescued in Heilongjiang

Back on flat land again, my motorbike had to be towed through mud more than a metre deep. Now my greatest worry was that the chain pulling my bike would tear it to pieces. I could hardly worry about the mud being thrown up over all me, but kept my hands firmly on the handlebars and stared straight ahead. I saw no end to the marshlands of northern Jilin.

Little did I expect to experience such difficulties just before entering Heilongjiang, my home province. I travelled the highways of Yanbian in the rain for two days and 400 kilometres, trying to find a road that would take me into Heilongjiang. I finally gave up in total despair. The three roads at Hunchun, Wangqing and Dunhua had all been destroyed by flooding. Even the last leg of my five-year trip was not without unexpected hardships.

(Continued on page 89)

During his five years of absence, the old two-storey buildings on the banks of the Heilongjiang River in Heihe had been replaced by high-rises (1). ■ Customs procedures will be faster and more efficient once the new customs building has been completed in the border city of Suifenhe (2). ■ Birch bark trunks are common furniture in Tongjiang City in Heilongjiang (3). ■ Locally grown vegetables from the border county of Xunke, also in Heilongjiang (4). ■ It is wheat harvesting season at a state farm in Heilongjiang (5).



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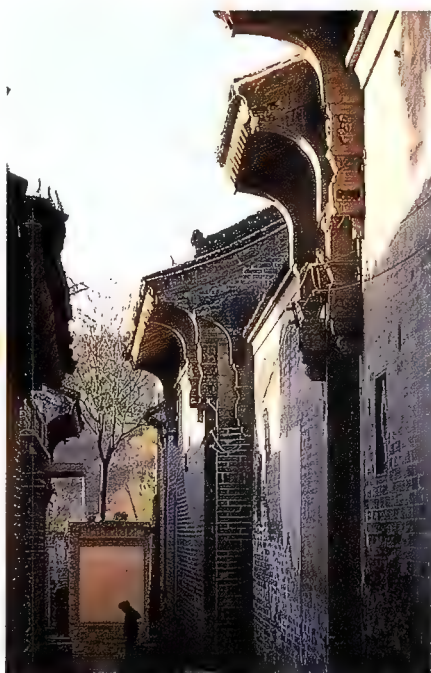
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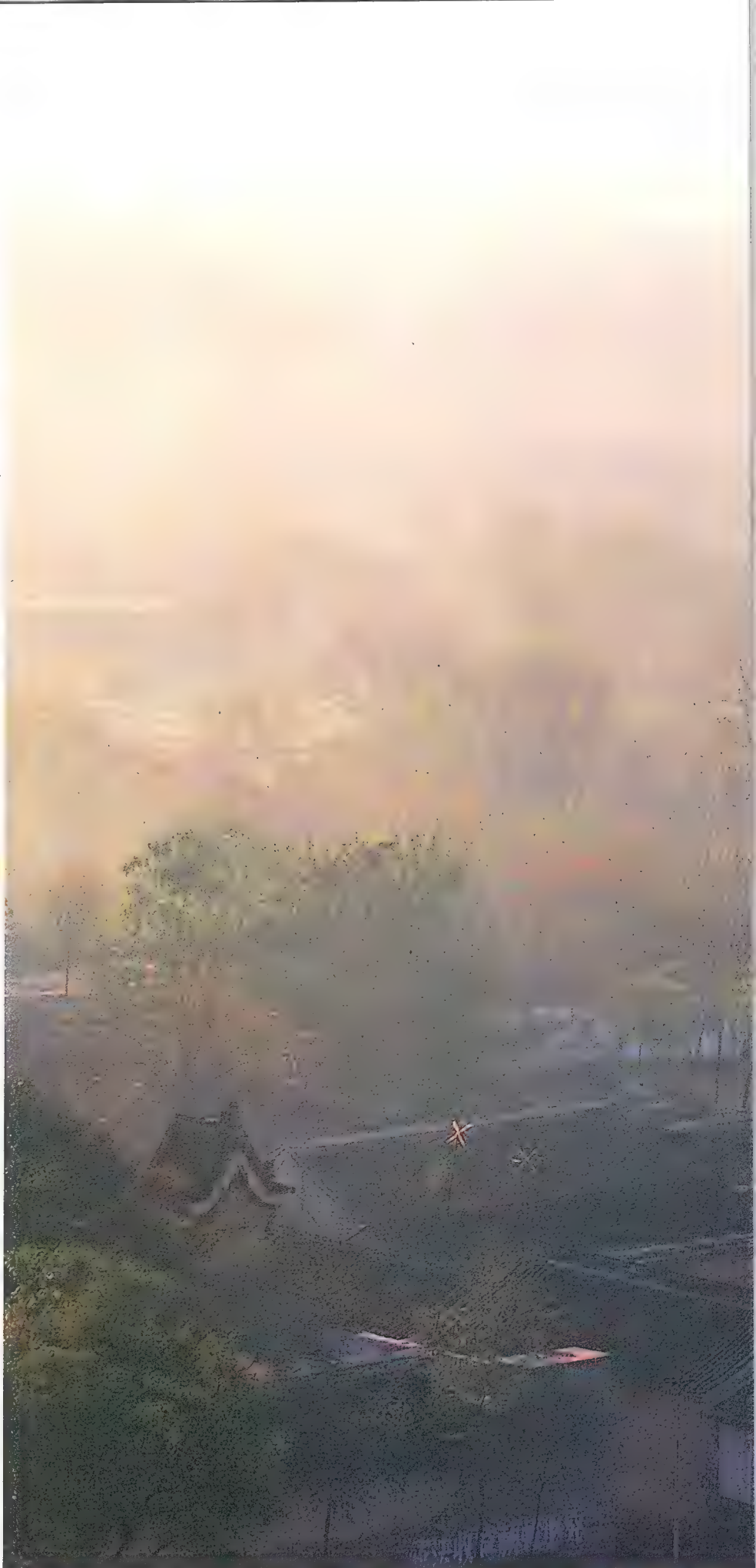
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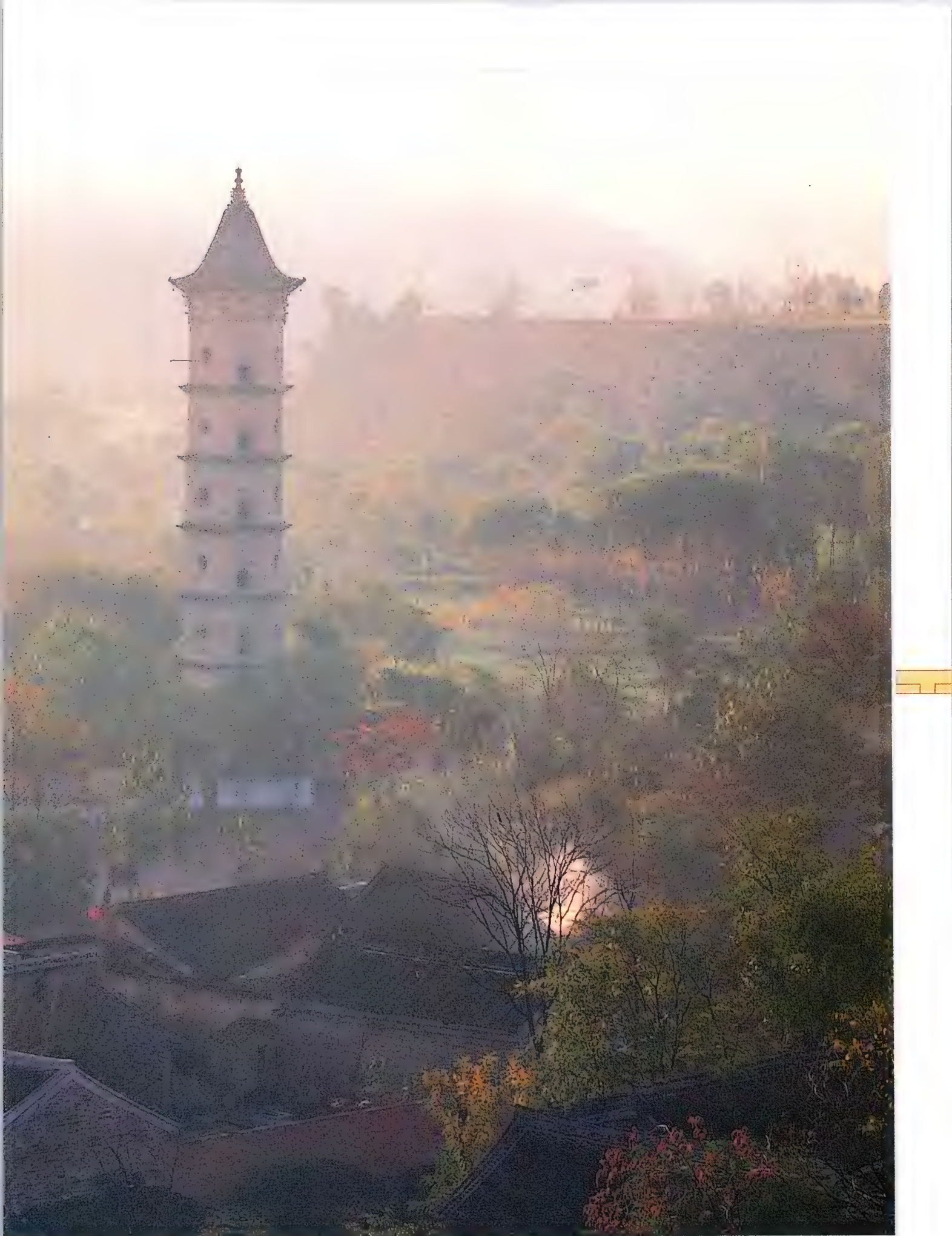
An Age-Old Village on the Yellow River

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN
ARTICLE BY MA KE & XIU SHI



The high arches of the walls in Dangjia Village are all decorated with bas-relief carvings.





Surrounded by tableland, Dangjia Village has remained virtually unchanged in its 600 years of history.



This threshold has a wooden bench that fits in a deep groove. When in place, it prevents dust and small animals from entering the house; when pulled out it is used as an ordinary bench.



▼▲ Residents of Dangjia Village spare no effort when making carvings to decorate their arches.





A retired teacher in his quadrangle, named the "Farmer-Scholar Mansion"

Dangjia Village is located on the upper reaches of the Bishui River, a tributary of the section of the Yellow River that runs through the great Shaanxi-Shanxi valley which separates the two provinces. Nine kilometres from Hancheng City in Shaanxi and a mere three kilometres from the Yellow River, the village is also not far from the Yumen Gateway, where the legendary King Yu tamed the Yellow River. To the south is a memorial temple to the great historian Sima Qian, who lived during the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24).

This village, not known to anyone outside Hancheng until recent years, has suddenly become renowned even outside of China for its exceptionally well-preserved ancient architectural structures. Today, Dangjia is regarded as a "village of international cultural significance".

I came to Dangjia Village one day late last autumn. Looking down from the tableland and onto the north bank of the Bishui River, I saw a cluster of grey-tiled houses peeking out amongst green and yellow leaves. Also visible were the Wenxing Pagoda, watchtowers and monuments to chaste women. The houses were enveloped in smoke as it spiralled up from the kitchens, lending an air of mystery and romance to the scene. Sounds of village life drifted past: roosters crowing, dogs barking and schoolchildren reciting their texts. The Bishui River flowed gently along outside the village, and on its banks young wheat seedlings poked up through the earth, forming a beautiful contrast with the grey tiles of the village houses.

Biyang Fortress — A Safe Haven for the Villagers

On a high slope on the tableland to the north stands an independent stockaded village called Biyang Fortress, which is also a part of Dangjia Village. The site was obviously chosen for its remote location, and the fortress is further pro-



This tunnel leads from Biyang Fortress to Dangjia Village.

tected by a wall over seven metres high to the northeast and a seven-foot-deep moat at its foot. To the southwest of the fortress one comes to the edge of a precipice, thus nature and human labour have combined to make Biyang Fortress an extremely secure stronghold.

I crossed the earthen bridge that spanned the moat, entered the gate and found myself on cobblestone streets. High courtyard walls lined both sides of the streets, and at the top of the walls the grey bricks were decorated with carvings of flowers, birds and insects. In the town plaza where the streets converged was a pond made out of paving-stones, and a small stone bridge stood across a ditch used for rainwater. The cobblestone streets descended downward as they approached the bluff, where they formed a winding underground tunnel over two metres wide.

Walking inside the tunnel, I heard my heavy footsteps echo hollowly around me. I finally came to an iron gate, and as I passed through my eyes were dazzled by the sunlight — I had arrived at the other end of Biyang Fortress, which towered above me a full three storeys high. Once this heavy gate is closed, the fortress is nearly impregnable. Looking at the stone

path that leads from the tunnel to Dangjia Village, I suddenly realized that the fortress also served another function, as a safe haven for the villagers, who at one time or another had to flee from bandits, soldiers and warfare.

Back in ancient times the Yellow River valley was a frequent battlefield for struggles between the Han nationality and other ethnic groups in the north, as well as the site of persistent attacks by local bandits. People living in mountain villages far from any prefectures or county seats, with no city walls or army to safeguard them, could only protect their property and their lives by building this kind of fort, constructed with high walls and deep moats that no one could penetrate.

Whenever there was any sign of danger, the villagers would hide in the fortress until the bandits or soldiers had passed. The watchtower in the village stands at a perfect vantage point for observing the surrounding area. In an emergency, the sentry would give signals to the villagers warning them to take refuge in the fortress. Indeed, Biyang Fortress is one of the strongest and most elaborately built ancient forts still standing today.

Even Better than Beijing's Quadrangles

Back in Dangjia Village, a few steps along the stone-paved sloping paths led me to the main street of the village, from which a number of secondary streets radiated outward, crisscrossing each other or forming T-shaped intersections. No matter how big, all the streets were paved with stone and were lined on both sides with neat quadrangle or triangle courtyard-style compounds, some 140 in all. The arches over the doorways were all carved with different designs in stone and wood. Since ancient times, this group of residences in Dangjia Village has been called "little Beijing" by the people of

Hancheng. In actual fact, if one compares the structure and architectural features of these houses with the quadrangles in Beijing, these are clearly superior.

As I strolled down the streets and lanes I occasionally peeked inside some of the more unique-looking compounds. Carvings of all sorts were everywhere — in stone, brick and wood. At the doors of most households were large stones in the shape of drums or sitting lions, or the kind once used for tethering horses. Most compounds also had screen walls or lateral walls. The doors and windows were all ornamented with well-wrought carvings. In the more well-to-do households, two-storey wooden buildings had been constructed along all four sides of the compound, connected by winding corridors on the second floor. In some compounds there were even small stages for putting on shadow puppet plays or puppet shows.

A retired village teacher I met there explained the principle of the “quadrangle culture”, taking his own courtyard as an example. The quadrangle can be compared to a person, he said, with the main hall like a head, the rooms by the gate the feet, and the rooms on both sides the two arms. Altogether they form a harmonious whole, symbolizing the harmony and happiness of the whole family. The ridges of the roofs of the buildings each rise above the one in front, with the screen wall being the lowest. This arrangement is meant to symbolize an official rising up through the ranks.

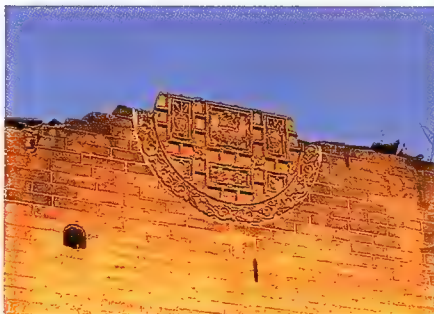
According to Taoist *bagua* divination theory, odd numbers are *yang*, while even numbers are *yin*. Therefore, there are usually three main rooms, five smaller rooms by the gate and three or five rooms on each side. The ideal layout for a quadrangle would be for it to face south and have a symmetrical arrangement of rooms, doors, and windows on the east and west sides, and Chinese redbud trees in the yard.

A Showcase of Confucian Culture

After having visited a dozen or so compounds, I began to realize that besides their distinctive architectural styles and exquisite carvings, they also possessed a strong Confucian atmosphere. Under the eaves of the gates signboards carry inscriptions such as the “Farmer-Scholar Mansion”, the “Mansion of Poetry and Books”, the “Number-One Scholar’s Mansion” or the “Imperial Historian’s Mansion”.

The rooms are imbued with an air of culture and learning, with quotations that reflect the philosophy and moral principles of the owners decorating the walls, reminding the inhabitants of timeless truths, like “Nothing is as noble as studying books” and “Pay no attention to events happening outside your window, instead read the books of sages and learned men”. On the kitchen wall of one farmer’s household is the inscription: “Perform not unprofitable jobs, befriend not unworthy people, read not useless books and speak not senseless words.”

Although the top of this wall is old and crumbling, once can still see the fine workmanship put into constructing the houses here.



Why is it that the Confucian cultural tradition is so deeply rooted in such a remote village as Dangjia? The answer is found in the Ming and Qing dynasties, when the villagers in this community became wealthy through farming and doing trade, and their top priority became to educate their children so that they could become officials. Eventually, many prominent scholars emerged from this far-off hamlet.

According to the *Village Annals*, four scholars from Dangjia became successful candidates in the imperial examinations at the provincial level, and one successful candidate of the highest examination was appointed a member of the Imperial Academy and the imperial historian. In the last ten or so years of the Qing Dynasty, 44 scholars from the village passed the imperial examinations at the county level.

In Biyang Fortress, I visited the ancestral home of the celebrated man who had passed the highest examination. A board inscribed with the three Chinese characters “Tai Shi Di” (the Imperial Historian’s Mansion) hung above the high gate. A silvery-haired old lady welcomed me and spoke in an exceptionally polite and learned manner, quite unlike an ordinary village women. She was 81 years old, and her husband was the grandson of that illustrious imperial historian.

The Founder of Dangjia Village

In the main street of the village I met a Mr. Jia, a man in his late sixties. Outgoing and quite willing to talk, he was very knowledgeable, and often volunteered to act as a guide for outside visitors. According to him, Dangjia Village has a history of over 600 years and was built in 1331 during the Yuan Dynasty. The founder of the village, Dang Shuxuan, was a native of Dali County in Shaanxi Province. To escape a famine occurring at the time, he came to a place called Dongyangwan in Hancheng and settled



All recreational activities, even ping-pong, take place inside the compounds.



The layout of Dangjia Village is well-organized and compact, unlike ordinary farming villages.



Stone posts once used for tethering horses have lost their original function, but are still valued as examples of folk art.



The upstairs rooms used to be bedrooms for young girls of rich families, and the corridors outside them were used for staging puppet shows.



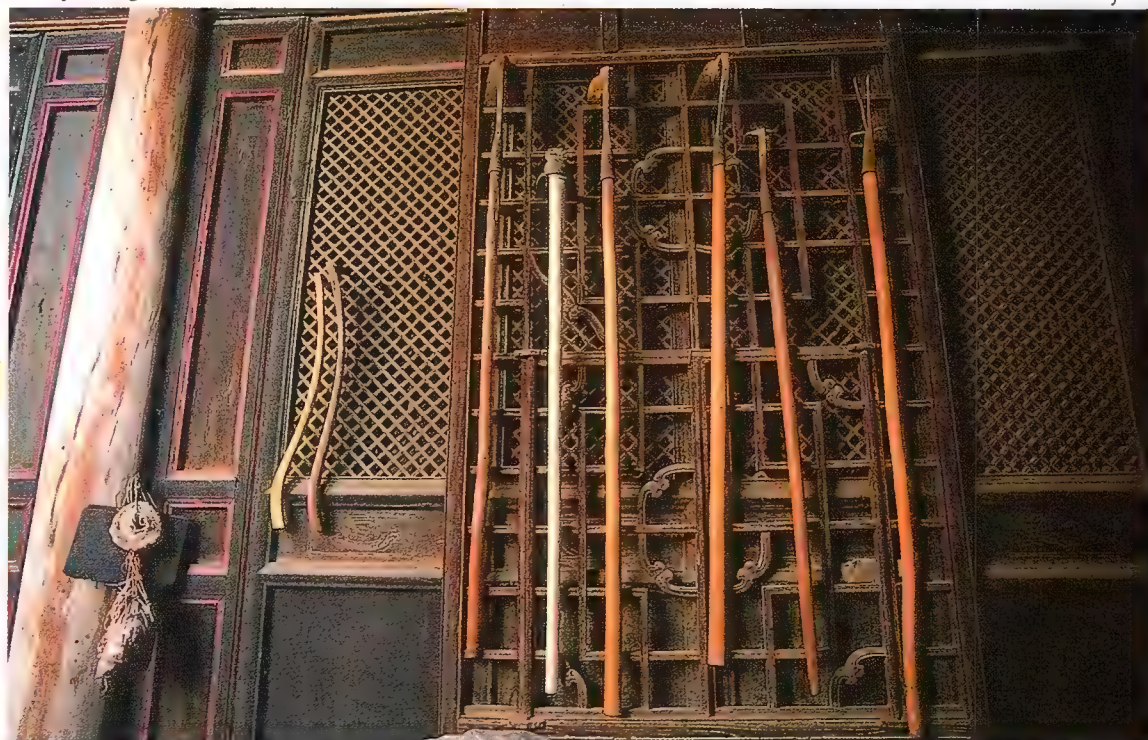
Children in the village begin primary school when they are about six years old.



This tall and elaborate Monument to a Chaste Woman was erected over 300 years ago.



Maxims and quotations reflecting traditional Confucian culture are carved into the walls of every house.



The doors and windows of the houses are intricately decorated with latticework and carvings.

down in a cave, which he dug himself on the slopes of the northern plain. He made his living by farming on the banks of the Bishui River, and soon established the first settler household in Dangjia Village.

By 1364, the Dangs had developed into quite a large household in Dongyangwan, which was then formally renamed Dangjia Village, or the Dang Family Village. In 1495, a Shanxi merchant by the name of Jia came and settled down in the village, married a girl from the Dang family, and thus began the gradual expansion of the tiny village.

Many of the descendents of this man were also able traders. By the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty, Jia family trade had expanded to Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, as well as the cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou in the east. Meanwhile, the Dang family had been working hard at their farming and educating their children, with the result that some became officials.

As the number of rich merchants and important officials grew, grand compounds and elaborate buildings began to be constructed. Both the merchants and the officials, in their extended travels, had seen many different styles of buildings, and by merging the positive aspects of some of these structures, they developed a style all their own when they built their homes in Dangjia Village. In fact, a large number of the existing compounds in the village were built during that period.

An Unusually Well-Preserved Village

I could not help wondering how, after surviving the vicissitudes of more than 600 years, Dangjia Village was still so well-preserved, with its tiles, bricks, carved beams and painted rafters almost entirely free of decay or dust.

"Just look at the Wenxing Pagoda in the primary school there," Mr. Jia whispered mysteriously in my ears. "There is a dust-preventing magic pearl hidden at the top. That's why no dust will fall on this village."

He also mentioned that this pagoda has a strong geomantic influence on the village. It was purposely erected in the southeastern corner of the village to fill in a "gap" in that part of the land, because the ancient geomancers saw that there was a gap in the southeastern part of the land and a breach in the northwestern sky. Because of the pagoda, it is said, Dangjia Village has never been visited by floods nor suffered losses due to earthquakes.

Upon my return to Xi'an I paid a visit to Professor Liu Baozhong, one of Shaanxi's leading architectural experts. In the past dozen years or so, he had been to Dangjia Village eight times to do investigations, and had repeatedly urged the local government and villagers to take good care of these ancient buildings. In his opinion, the reason for Dangjia Village's well-preserved buildings and lack of dust is slightly more scientific.

He believes that because the village is located in a narrow river valley and is shielded by mountains and tablelands, this helps to reduce the force of the northwest winds prevalent on the Loess Plateau during the winter and

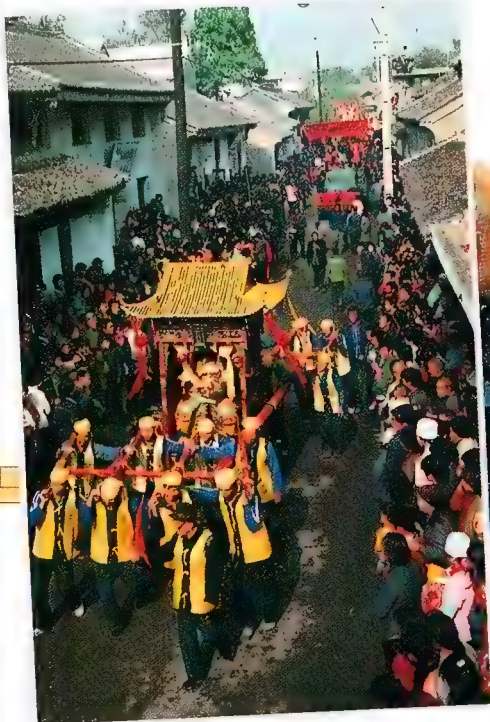
spring seasons. In addition, the tablelands to the south and north are composed of red or white clay, which produce very little dust. Lastly, the trees that grow on the banks of the Bishui River have a purifying effect on the air.

Other people say that Emperor Jiaqing (r. 1796-1820) of the Qing Dynasty, in view of the great amount of tribute and grain paid by the people of Hancheng County, and the number of scholars and officials that emerged from there, decided to grant a special favour to the villagers by licensing them to build solid, first-class structures with the best materials and workmanship. The affluence and far-off location of the village allowed it to remain free from both disturbances caused by dynastic changes and warfare.

Even the massive construction projects in other towns that came later on, or the political campaigns that involved doing away with the old and bringing in the new, did not touch this secluded river valley. It is no wonder, then, that Professor Masao Aoki of Kyushu University in Japan, a scholar of architecture, was extremely impressed after doing studies here. He remarked: "I have been to more than 20 countries and regions, but have never seen an ancient village as well-preserved and intact as this one. One might say that this is a living fossil of ancient people's dwellings."

Today, Dangjia Village has been included in the "International Research Projects on Traditional Culture" and has been designated by the Shaanxi provincial government a "protected village of historical and cultural value".

Translated by Xia Ping



Festivals bring an even more traditional atmosphere to Dangjia Village (by An Keren).



This man practises calligraphy as a form of discipline (by An Keren).



Old people in the village seldom venture outside, but instead learn about the world through extensive reading.



Chen Kaige: A Born Film Director

ARTICLE BY CHEN XIAOBO

Chen (middle) wins the coveted Palm D'or Award for film making (by Luo Gengqian).



Chen Kaige with Gong Li (by Zeng Huang)

Looking vivacious and awe-inspiring despite his shock of white hair, 40-year-old Chen Kaige is unquestionably one of China's best film directors, even though he has made only five films over the last decade.

When I first met him in July of last year, he was working with his editor on his new production *Farewell to My Concubine* in the Beijing Film Studio's editing room. It was quiet in the room. Chen, wearing a casual T-shirt, impressed me as a man with a captivating manner which was accentuated by his soul-searching eyes and resonant voice. More impressive than his good looks and thoughtful disposition, however, is his wholehearted devotion to film making.

The Teenage Kaige

Huili, a friend of mine, sent me a biography of Chen Kaige from Taiwan called *The Teenage Kaige*, upon learning that I was writing about the man. "This book is about the 'cultural revolution' as much as about myself, for I believe that my most important life experiences came from that period," Chen wrote in the book. "More than anything else, this 'revolution' helped me to learn about myself. To know oneself is tantamount to knowing the world, and it was this realization that decided my future."

Chen was born in Beijing in the summer of 1952, the Year of the Dragon. Not long before his birth, Beijing was the venue of the Asia-Pacific Peace Conference. Inspired by the conference's emblem, a dove drawn by Pablo Picasso, his parents named him "Aige", meaning "White Dove". His father, Chen Huai'ai, is a well-known movie director and his mother an editor with the Beijing Film Studio.

As a child Chen was deeply affected by his mother's profound knowledge of literature, her relaxed attitude towards life and her disdain towards fame and wealth. Even today he can still recall how, sitting in a rattan chair in the courtyard, wearing light green brocade pajamas and holding a book of ancient poetry, she taught him how to read verses. It was under her persistent coaching that the young Kaige learned to recite many of the longest poems by heart. Chen said that these highly illustrative poems had a positive influence on his career as a film maker.

Like many others, he weathered the storm of the "cultural revolution". As one of the countless teenagers then living on the mainland, he saw what this "revolution" was all about — erratic political changes, numerous families falling apart, extreme material and cultural deprivation, as well as blind faith, fanaticism and lawlessness that gripped people both individually and collectively.

After giving an eye-witness account of the atrocities in the book, he said that today, 20 years later, he still found it hard to comprehend what had really happened. In 1969 Chen, together with millions of his peers, was sent to the countryside as an educated youth. In Xishuangbanna in southern Yunnan Province, he spent his days felling old trees and cutting wild grass. Soon his young hands were yellow and hard with thick calluses.

About the campaign to send educated youths to the rural areas, Chen wrote, "All those young people, having been educated in one way or another, suddenly found themselves at the bottom rung of the social ladder. Psychologically, they were thrown off-balance by the conflicts between their education and low social status and between their unfulfilled wishes and the harsh reality of the rural areas. This, coupled with all the changes in their lives and the rigours of physical labour, turned them into both the most resentful and the most thoughtful generation in China's modern history. With a strong desire for changing their lot and the ability to cope with change, they have every reason to hope for a better future. But, for all the superficial

improvements in society, China has still not managed to produce a single literary masterpiece in recent decades. This is because even though the 'revolution' had the entire nation in its grip, it failed to generate anything positive in culture — it by no means represented progress. And although the experiences gained by those people through time, sweat and blood were very successful, what they learned was limited to the realm of an agricultural society. One positive outcome is that those years of trauma have created a generation of peasants who are more resilient than their predecessors."

With the unique combination of his experience with political upheavals, personal suffering, an artistic upbringing and inherent love of culture, Chen was able to make a strong impression the moment he entered the film-making industry.

A Life Made for Films

After his time as an educated youth was over, Chen joined the army for five years and then worked as a plumber for three years. In 1978 he passed the entrance examination and enrolled in the Department of Directing of the Beijing Cinema College. His schoolmates

included Zhang Yimou, Tian Zhuangzhuang, Wu Ziniu, Gu Changwei and Zhang Fengyi. At the time nobody could imagine what these people — who had stubby beards and appeared a shade too old for college — could possibly bring to the Chinese motion picture industry.

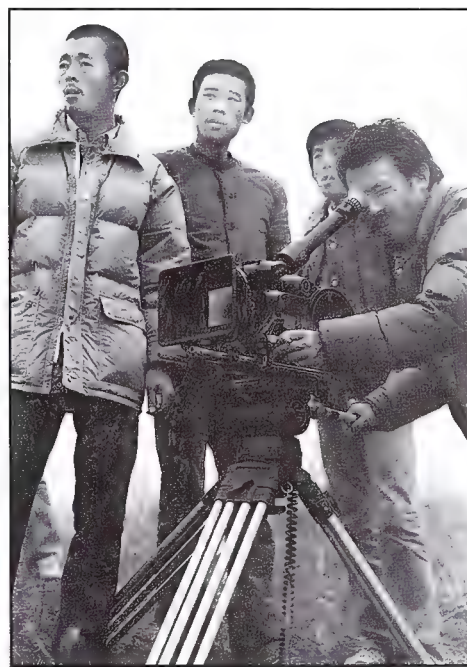
In 1982, Chen and his classmates graduated from the college. Two years later, *Yellow Earth*, directed by Chen and filmed by Zhang Yimou, was released. The film tells the simple tale of the relationship between a two-generation family in northern Shaanxi Province and the ancient Yellow River. Commented actress-author Huang Zongying: "No other movie in Chinese cinema has shown more intolerance, distress and anger against the backwardness and stupidity of a people who lived in the fetters of a 2,000-year-old feudal system and a small-peasant economy. No other movie has instilled such intense feelings and hope for the vitality and awakening of our nation, a nation with a history of 5,000 years."

In 1985, Chen directed his second movie, called *The Big Parade*. It is about an army preparing for a large-scale parade, but the director goes beyond the event itself to probe into the behaviour and mentality

Chen (far right) posing with his father Chen Huai'ai (far left) and Leslie Cheung, the leading star in the film *Farewell to My Concubine* (by Bai Yu)



Chen (far right) on location for the movie *The King of Children*



A scene from the film *The King of Children*



A scene from the film *Life on a String*



Working with his cast on the film *Farewell to My Concubine* (by Zeng Huang)



Chen with his nephew (by Zeng Huang)

of a group of men living in a tightly knit and strictly disciplined organization, as well as the intriguing relationship between the individual and the collective.

In 1986 Chen produced *The King of Children*, in which he soberly dissects an education system which catered to cultural backwardness through the story of Lao Gan, an educated youth who works as a rural primary school teacher.

In 1990 he told the tale of a blind musician in the film *Life on a String*. In the story, someone writes out a prescription for the blind man which will restore his sight, but attaches the condition that he must break 1,000 strings while playing his instrument in order for the medicine to be effective. After spending a lifetime as a vagrant musician he finds, to his great disappointment, that the prescription is just a blank slip of paper.

In 1993 Chen finished shooting the film *Farewell to My Concubine*. By telling a story about the joys and sorrows of life in ancient times, Chen wanted to show that life's dreams may sound lofty, but to translate them into reality can be a very dangerous proposition. That


is why he gives the film a tragic ending, an ending which touches one's heart with its sense of nobility and beauty.

"What else can I do beside films? What else can I do to express myself?" This is the question Chen often asks himself. His life is inexorably connected with films, indeed, he was born for them.

"The First Prize for Dealing with Life's Challenges"

In February 1993 the 1982 graduates of the Beijing Cinema College gathered at their Alma Mater for a get-together. Half-jokingly, half-seriously, they set up a series of prizes. When Chen was handed the "First Prize for Dealing with Life's Challenges", he smiled, though his eyes were filled with a characteristic melancholy and solitude.

Nobody can really understand this man. The storms he has weathered over the last four decades took place more in the depths of his soul than in his everyday life. At heart he is a loner, engrossed in his musings and personal philosophy. Film is his medium for telling stories and expressing his feelings. When he creates something, at the same time something else is also destroyed. Light-heartedness and tender feelings are alien to his cinematic creations. He chooses to reflect on man's innermost weaknesses by dwelling on life's tragedies, hardships and vicissitudes. "The tragedies of bygone days actually had something to do with our own psychology," he said. "Therefore everyone was responsible for them." This strong sense of remorse repeatedly shows itself in his films, enabling the sensitive movie-goer to see his or her own ghost on the screen.

Chen and the other members of China's fifth-generation directors, such as Zhang Yimou, Tian Zhuangzhuang, Wu Ziniu and Zhang Junzhao, are the pride of the nation's motion picture industry. The films they have made over the last decade have had an immeasurable impact, not only on the language of the cinema but on Chinese culture as well. 

Translated by Ling Yuan

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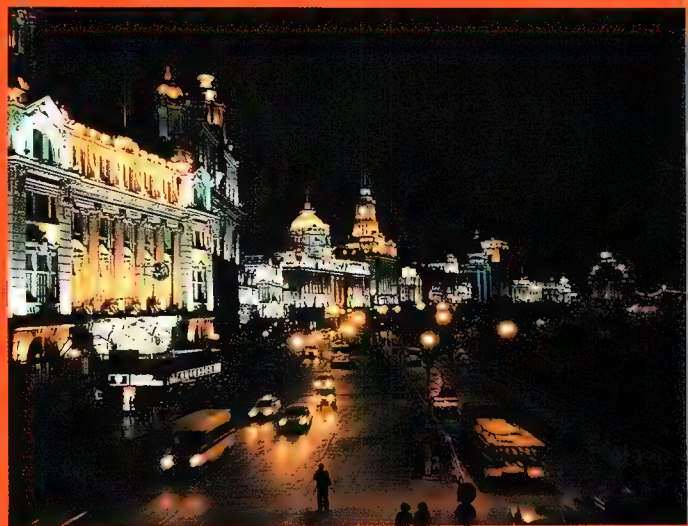
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A Unique Temple Fair in Zhejiang Province

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI



"Fighting the Luohans" is a traditional event performed at the Fangyan Temple Fair every year during the Double Nine Festival.



All my life I have heard people talk about the Fangyan Temple Fair in Zhejiang Province's town of Yongkang, situated approximately in the middle of the province. When I was young, I remember being told the story of a man named Hu Ze who lived in Yongkang during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). Serving as an official there, he was very sympathetic to the living condi-

tions of the local people, and strongly advocated light taxes and the lenient punishment of petty criminals. The people respectfully called him Hu Gong (Lord Hu), and because of his kindness and benevolence, after his death the villagers built a temple in his honour at Fangyan, in the exact place that he often used to go to read. Over time the Hu Gong Temple Fair, or Fangyan Temple Fair, came into being, the first one occurring about seven or eight hundred years ago.

On a recent trip to Zhejiang, I finally had a chance to attend the fair. I arrived on the eve of the Double Nine Festival (the ninth day of the ninth lunar month), and as the bus approached Fangyan I could see small groups of villagers dressed up in opera costumes and heading towards the temple. The Hu Gong Temple is built on top of Fangyan Mountain, however visitors must leave their vehicles at the foot of the mountain and walk to the summit.

Half an hour later I arrived at the top of the mountain. In front of the temple a group of girls wearing large masks and holding flowered scarves and paper fans were singing and dancing. If at the end of the performance they had not taken off their masks, I never would have guessed that they were middle-aged farming women. These dancers come from the surrounding villages and are normally busy with farmwork, however on the eve of every Double Nine Festival they come here to the Hu Gong Temple to dance, light incense and pray for the well-being of their families.



Pilgrims who come to Fangyan Mountain, long known as a Buddhist holy place, head for the temple on the summit to pray (by Wang Jinqiu).



While wearing their masks and dancing, one would never guess that the performers are farming women in their 40s and 50s.



The Fangyan Temple Fair in Yongkang only comes once a year, therefore it is always a festive occasion.



During the Double Nine Festival many temple activities take place at Luohan Cave on Fangyan Mountain (by Wang Jinqiu).



On the day of the fair, people dress their children up like officials or military officers from ancient times in remembrance of their ancestors.



This elderly musician is playing his stringed instrument under the watchful eye of a Buddhist statue.

Inside the temple was a dignified, five-metre seated statue of Hu Gong, surrounded by candles and burning incense. According to tradition, every year from the 13th day of the eighth lunar month, Hu Gong's birthday, until the Double Nine Festival, people flock here in the thousands. When I left the temple it was dusk and by 7:00 night had already fallen, but when I arrived back in Yongkang there were still people outside busily preparing for the next day's festival, using the light of the street lamps to hang banners and colourful flags.

Early the next morning I hurried to Yongkang Stadium for the opening ceremony. It had not yet begun, and groups of performers from neighbouring villages had gathered outside to wait. At 8:00, amidst the sound of beating drums and clashing gongs, the opening ceremony got underway. The first performance was called the "Umbrella Dance", which at first consisted of a group of young women holding paper umbrellas. They then began to do a wonderful dance where they turned round and round, until all at once they put up their umbrellas and the stadium was filled with the patterns of over 200 flowered paper umbrellas.

The next performance was called "Nine Strings of Pearls" and was a re-enactment of the fabled Monkey King's visit to the Palace of the Sea God, where he stirred up all kinds of trouble. Other acts followed, but despite the fact that the dancers all put a great deal of effort into their performance, it seemed that this kind of folk art would be more suitable if performed in the villages rather than in this large stadium. Therefore I decided to leave Yongkang and go instead to a small town 12 kilometres away called Zhiying. This town has been known for centuries as a place which maintains ancient, traditional customs, and in particular the Double Nine festivities here are meant to be even more impressive than during the more important Chinese New Year or Lantern Festival.

Following a local villager I walked south for a kilometre or so until we arrived at a small town full of Ming and Qing-dynasty architecture. Suddenly a group of brightly-coloured sedan chairs appeared from one of the alleys, looking much like the kind of traditional chairs used for carrying brides to their new homes, except that instead of having four bearers, the chairs were on wheels and were pushed from behind by attendants. In the old days when this spectacle was performed for the Double Nine Festival, men would play the roles of both attendant and bride, however today things have changed and both roles are played by females, the attendants middle-aged ladies and the brides younger women.



Of all the villages in the area, Zhongshan does the best "Fighting the Luohans", a spectacle that always draws a big crowd.



Fangyan has been known for its beautiful paper flowers since Emperor Qianlong's reign (1736-1795) in the Qing Dynasty.



These children dressed up in traditional outfits have found a perfect vantage-point from which to watch the festivities — a window of their own house.



This temple dedicated to Hu Gong was built by the local people to commemorate his good deeds while working here as an official (by Wang Jinqiu).




A brightly decorated sedan chair carefully winds its way through the narrow, ancient alleyways.

In other villages the festivities were different, each with its own traditional events. One, for example, called "Plums in the Snow", is based on an old story about a handicapped father and daughter who were returning home during a blizzard and had to rely on each other to overcome various hardships. One young woman played both the roles of the paralyzed daughter and her mute father. Her upper half was dressed up as a girl, but below the waist she wore a man's trousers and straw sandals. She sang and danced, looking just like an old man carrying a paralyzed girl on his back.

With all the villages having their own kinds of festivities there is naturally great variety, however only the Yongkang area has what is called "Fighting the Luohans (Arhats)". According to tradition, this performance is a must during the Double Nine Festival, and among all the towns in the area, a village called Zhongshan does the best "Fighting the Luohans". It is said that at the first signs of autumn the people of Zhongshan hire a martial arts master to come and organize a "Luohan class" for the local villagers. Brandishing cudgels and wielding sabres while executing Chinese boxing moves, boys as young as ten years old join in the training.

When I returned to Yongkang later that morning, I heard the sound of gongs and drums coming from the village threshing ground. Soon I saw a line of 12 young men holding up pennants, followed by a group of "warriors" carrying various weapons used in Chinese martial arts, shouting as they entered the arena. They formed themselves into two groups and began a fierce mock battle, knives and spears clashing wildly. In an instant the arena was turned into an ancient battlefield, the battle finally concluding with a magnificent finale. Next, about 30 to 40 "Luohans" came in and formed several "Luohan Teams". Nimble yet rugged and strong, they combined the skill of boxing with aerobics, acrobatics and dance, creating a vibrant, colourful spectacle.

"Fighting the Luohans" has a history dating back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), and is also related to the beloved local official Hu Ze. The story goes that he came to this town and trained the villagers how to fight the invading enemy forces. After Hu Ze's death, his sons and grandsons carried on this tradition so as not to forget his teachings. Therefore on days of worship, the villagers organize groups of young people to go to the Hu Gong Temple and perform "Fighting the Luohans", generation after generation. 

Translated by Roberta Raine



Two young "brides" have a quick chat as their sedan chairs pass each other in the alley.



No amount of stage make-up can hide the pre-performance jitters of these young girls.



Zhejiang's local form of Wu Opera is so popular here that just watching the performers put on their make-up is fun!



These children dressed up as butterflies are preparing to go on stage to perform a story called "One Hundred Butterflies Greeting the Spring".



The Jinuo people carry a live pig, beat drums and gongs and walk around the hamlet amidst songs and dances to beg all gods and demons alike to bless them with a rich harvest next year (by Wang Yizhong).



After the bride arrives, the whole village swarms into the house to congratulate the newly weds (by Pu Hongji).



Jinuo women like to wear triangular cotton print hats (by Pu Hongji).

The Jinuo People's Sacrifice to the Rice God

TEXT BY LUO YUNZHI

In the primeval forests of the Jinuo Mountains (or the Youle Mountains) in Jinghong County in Xishuangbanna, southern Yunnan, there lives the Jinuo nationality, some 10,000 strong, whose forefathers were said to have come to this area by following the troops of Shu (221-263) on their expedition to the south during the Three Kingdoms Period. This is why the Jinuo people always turn to face the north during their religious activities.

The Jinuo people do not have their own written language. Their spoken language belongs to the Tibetan-Burmese family of languages. It is said "ji" means "uncle", "nuo" "descendants", and "jinuo" "the descendants of the uncle". Obviously, the Jinuo nationality retains vestiges of a primitive clan marriage system, and traditionally they lived in bamboo long houses with all the patrilineal descendants from one ancestor under one roof.

One day in October I visited the Jinuo Mountains. Most of the hamlets are built on

the mountain slopes where there are better natural conditions, or in primeval forests on open terrain. Between hamlets are verdant forests, and on the ground are erected sword-like rocks and tree stumps as boundary markers.

The Jinuo people are believers in a primitive form of religion, believing everything to be divine, similar to the Bon religion which dominated Tibet before the arrival of Buddhism, thus, they link their life closely with religion and seem to worship a god at every juncture from birth to death. In addition, they also hold sacrificial activities when they begin to plough the land, sow seeds or reap crops. The most important activity is their sacrifice to the Rice God, a traditional ritual which has been handed down over the generations. On the second day after my arrival, I happened to see a sacrificial activity which was part of this festival.

Early in the morning all the villagers began to bustle around the hamlet. Men wear-



ing clean and neat clothes carried live chickens in baskets to the fields, where they lit a bonfire, offered two live chickens to each part of the field and prayed to the Rice God to fly back. After having said prayers, they picked up a few pieces of grain and several of a kind of red flower, locally named Bo'ai, from the fields and carried these back in the basket. On the way, they kept shouting for the god and putting a flower on each crossroad as a route marker so that the god would not lose its way. When they returned home, they divided the grain and the flowers into two separate bundles and hung one bundle on their granary and the other in the room where the sacrificial altar was set up, a symbol of homage to the Rice God.

When all this was done, it was believed that the Rice God had arrived. Then the villagers carried a big live pig, beat drums and gongs and walked around the hamlet. As they walked along, they sang and danced. This was meant as an invitation to all deities and devils to come to bless and protect their harvests for the next year. When the procession returned to the hamlet, they slaughtered the big pig and four chickens in front of the granary, mixed the pig's blood and chickens' blood together and sprinkled it using chicken feathers on the wooden posts, walls, doors and corners

of the room. Then the master of ceremonies was asked to chant. The pig's head must be cooked whole and placed together with the cooked chickens on the sacrificial altar. On the pig's head was hung a silver bracelet. The offerings were kept until the next day when they were eaten in the granary by the master of ceremonies, the father and mother of the hamlet and the male head of the household. This was known as sharing a meal together with the god.

The other parts of the pig were roasted on a fire and shared by male villagers squatting beside the granary. Women and children were not allowed to join in. Legend has it that long ago when the Rice God was flying to the Jinuo people, a woman was cleaning the granary. She said to the god, "The granary is not ready yet. Don't come now." The Rice God flew away in a huff and did not come back. Thereupon a famine commenced. Later the Jinuo people received a divine directive. They gathered a bunch of Bo'ai flowers and went to the Rice God to request it to return. After repeated and sincere prayers, the Rice God flew back. Ever since that time, the Jinuo people began to hold a grand sacrifice to the Rice God every year, after the crops had been harvested and the rice stored in the granary.



Translated by Xiong Zhenru



Household chores including winnowing rice are conducted on this verandah (by Pu Hongji).

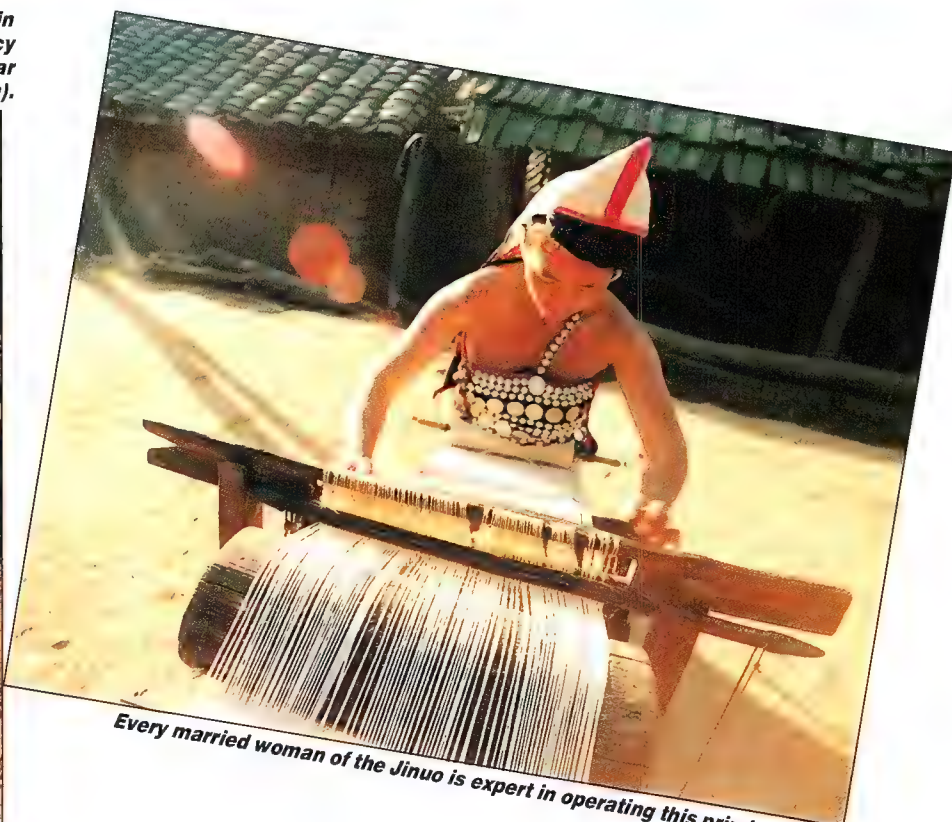


This old Jinuo man has holes in his earlobes big enough to hold flowers (by Pu Hongji).



During slack seasons Jinuo women love to wear new clothes and make thread (by Wang Yizhong).

Ox blood and bajiao flower cooked in bamboo tubes is an indispensable delicacy for the Jinuo people during their New Year sacrifice (by Wang Yizhong).



Every married woman of the Jinuo is expert in operating this primitive loom (by Wang Yizhong).

Shaoxing's Own She Opera

TEXT BY JIN HONG

Villagers make their way to the opera, already in progress (by Pan Honghai).



She Opera is a type of folk art that originated in the city of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province. The term "she" originally referred to the Earth God but later came to mean a local community. Consequently the term She Opera refers to operatic performances in local communities during the annual festivities in honour of the Earth God.

In Shaoxing, however, She Opera performances are not only confined to the festivals for honouring the Earth God. On New Year's Day or other such holidays, local communities invite operatic troupes to perform She Operas on platforms in front of temples or on makeshift stages. Besides the opera itself, She Operas also involve worshipping the Earth God and offering sacrifices to ghosts, both essential parts of the festivities to ensure peace in the mortal world.

As Shaoxing is a region of countless crisscrossing rivers and scattered lakes, most stages are located on the waterside. Thus people in Shaoxing can watch performances not only from land but also from

boats. When a She Opera is performed in a village, the residents invite all their friends and relatives in other villages to come and watch. The water in front of the stage becomes a sort of parking lot crammed with black awning boats.

The farmers here are very fond of local opera, which has a tradition of over 400 years. The music is characterized by its simple tunes, high pitched singing and intense arias. In open spaces the singing and music carry far and wide, with the sound amplified for people on boats as it is refracted off the water.

Most of the operas performed by Shaoxing's large troupes consist chiefly of fighting scenes, with operas about Lord Bao Zheng — an upright official from the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) — especially popular. Sometimes Yue (Shaoxing) Opera troupes are invited to perform and are also very well-received, since their operas always have happy endings.



Every inch of space is taken up by the audience at this outdoor performance (by Pan Honghai).

Performances often last from dawn till dusk, with many of the spectators staying until the bitter end (by Dong Yu).



Children have their own method of watching the opera, standing on benches placed right in front of the stage (by Yang Naiyan).



During the performance of a She Opera, there is excitement both on and off stage. As early as midday people begin to arrive, either by boat or carrying their own benches and bamboo chairs which they place on the ground in front of the stage. The first to arrive are the old folk, who sit in the centre and speak about opera with great authority. As soon as they sit down they check all the information about the play, the names of the actors and actresses and the costumes. Then, as they munch on melon seeds, they comment on the plays and actors they have seen in the past, sometimes bursting into song themselves.

Some of the old folk even edge their way to the door of the dressing room and peep through the cracks in the door to look for their favourite actors or actresses. If they are lucky enough to enter the dressing room, it is considered a great honour to have a chance to chat with the performers.

When the play begins, these old folk are even busier making com-



This spectator tries on the headdress of one of the characters in the opera (by Chen Jie).

ments and cheering than they are watching and listening. They are so familiar with the plays performed that they can relate nearly every plot, every line and every role. Without these amateur reviewers the open-air performances would be much less fun, so the audience often coaxes them into making more comments, which in turn helps the audience's understanding of the performance.

Another important group at an opera is the children. Before the performance begins, they push their way through the crowds of adults and, with their faces pointed upward and their mouths open, they listen raptly to the old folk tell the story of the play. It is a special treat if the children are allowed to watch the actors put on their make-up in the dressing room.

As soon as the performance begins, the kids swarm onto the area in front of the stage. They joyfully watch the actors with their red or white faces and long beards turning somersaults and fighting. After a while they get bored, and might start fighting each other for fun. One after another, the bolder children climb onto the corners of the stage and the adults then have to pull them off. But soon the kids steal onto the stage again. Watching a She Opera performance is such a lively occasion that the adults can tolerate the kids' naughtiness — providing it does not go too far.

Near the stage are stalls selling various kinds of snacks such as oranges, sugar cane, deep-fried beancurd, spiced dried beancurd, peanuts, melon seeds, soyabean milk and dumpling soup. But what attracts the children most are the assorted sweets kept in glass boxes with wooden frames, peaches and plums in syrup and sugar-coated hawthorn fruit on a stick. At the toy stalls one can buy balloons with whistles, flexible bamboo dragons, small Chinese musical instruments

like the *erhu* (a two-stringed fiddle) and bamboo flutes, clay idols or paper windmills. There is also a stall selling vivid dough figurines of characters like Monkey King and Pigsy from *Journey to the West*, which are made on the spot out of coloured dough.

Anyone who has seen a She Opera performance would agree that it is a unique experience — a festive occasion for people of all ages and a cultural tradition four centuries old.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

Behind the stage, actors take the opportunity for a quick chat (by Chen Jie)



Make-up is a crucial part of all opera performances (by Chen Jie).



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Address: 82 Dong An Men Street, Beijing China, 100747
Tel: 5124192 5124785
Telex: 210204 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86-1-5124775

China Feeding Stuffs Import & Export Corporation

Address: 82 Dong An Men Street, Beijing China, 100747
Tel: 5129132 5129131
Telex: 210203 CHFS CN
Fax: 86-1-5124736

China Tuhsu Flavours & Fragrances Import & Export Corporation

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Tel: 5132154, 5132152, 5132157
Telex: 210161 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86-1-5132156

China Tuhsu Shanghai PuDong Import & Export Corporation

Address: Room 1814 Shanghai International Trade Center, 2200 Yan An Road, Shanghai, China
Tel: (021)2418681, 2413692
Fax: 0086-21-2413941

China Tuhsu Shen Zhen Import & Export Corporation

Address: 6/F., China Tuhsu Building, No 38 South DongMen Rd., Shen Zhen, China
Tel: 2280855, 2280359, 2280373
Fax: (0755)2280379 2280359

China Tuhsu Hainan Import & Export Corporation

Address: 8/F., Huitong Plaza Hotel A1-8, Guomao Road Haikou 570005 Hainan
Tel: (0898)784396
781137-6890,6811
Fax: (0898)779492

China Tuhsu Hualin Trade Corporation

Address: 82 Dong An Men Street, Beijing, China 100747
Tel: 5124370, 5135836, 5124685
Telex: 22469 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86-1-5124685

China Tuhsu Industrial Development Corporation

Address: 82 Dong An Men Street, Beijing, China 100747
Tel: 5124731
Telex: 22283 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86-1-5121626

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China Tuhsu Transportation & Packing Corporation

Address: 82 Dong An Men Street, Beijing, China 100747
Tel: 5124766
Telex: 22469 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86-1-5124766

China Tuhsu Sunry International Trading Corporation

Address: 82, Dong An Men Street, Beijing, China 100747
Tel: 5132164, 5132195, 5132192
Telex: 22283 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86-1-5132163

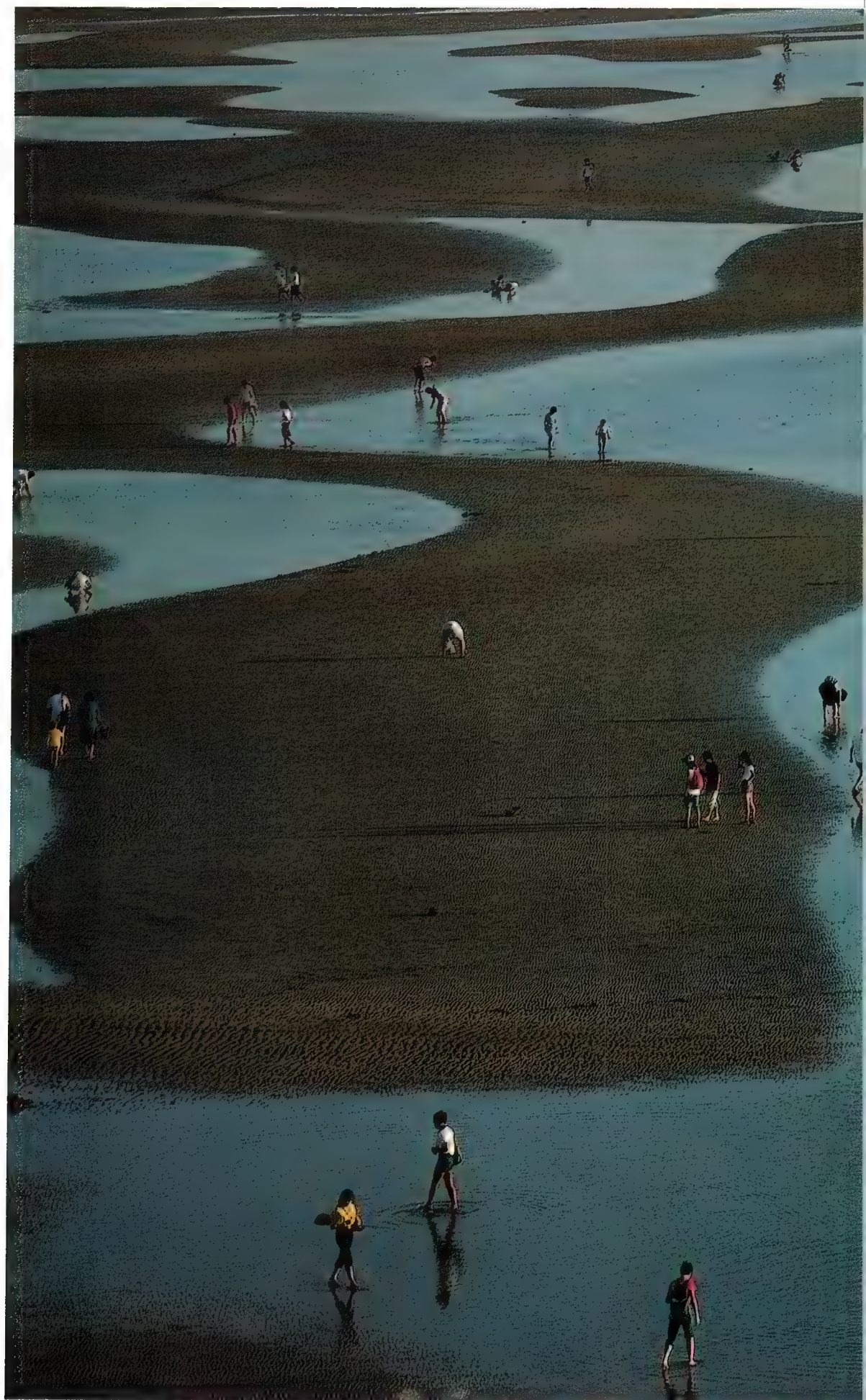
China Tuhsu Lanzhou Import & Export Corporation

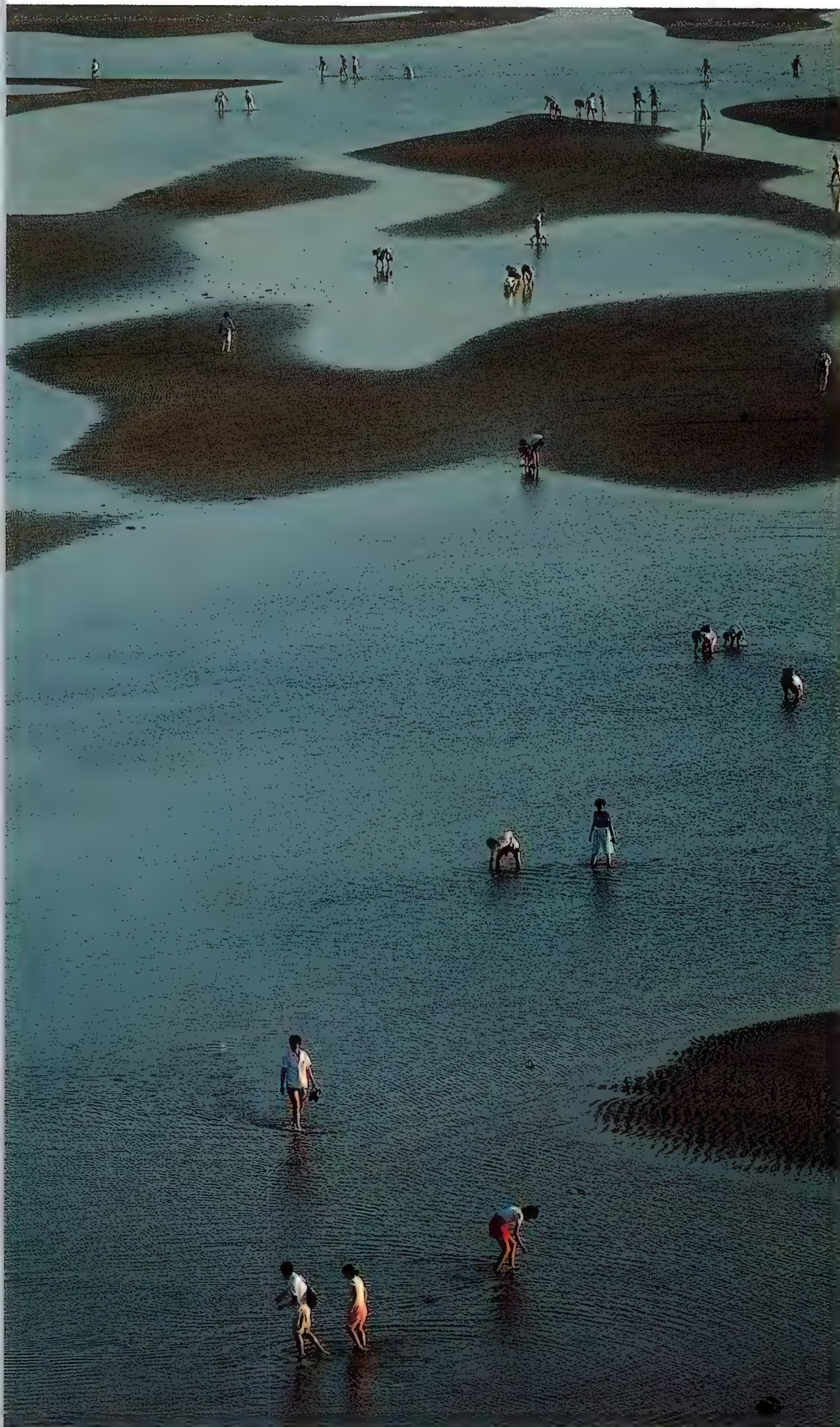
Address: No.99 Science And Technology Street, Lanzhou, China
Tel: 419891, 419887
Fax: (0931)419884

PHOTOGRAPHER'S
GALLERY

Beidaihe — a Summer Resort

PHOTOGRAPHER:
LI YINGJIE





Chasing the first rays of the July sun, these early risers at the beach at Beidaihe appreciate the quiet stretch of golden sand. When the red sun slowly rises, they stroll along the beach where the receding tide has created graceful lines, playing in the shallow waters or collecting cowries and other shells.

Lying fifteen kilometres southwest of Qinhuangdao in Hebei Province, Beidaihe, with Mount Lianfeng as a backdrop and the Bohai Sea in front, is a famous summer resort and tourist site which also welcomes visitors during all four seasons. You will not see sandstorms here in spring, nor will you feel intense heat in summer or bitter cold in winter, while in autumn it is fresh and cool.

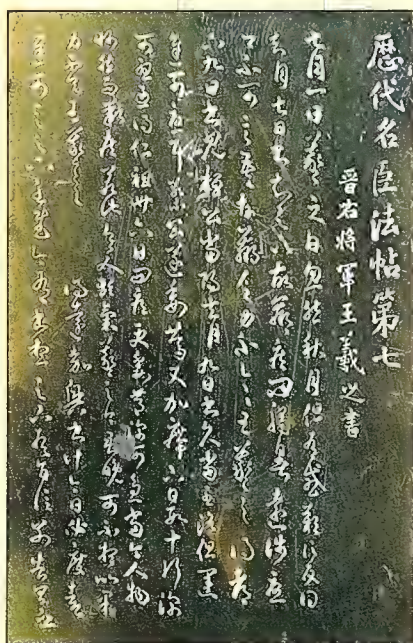
Beidaihe boasts three major scenic spots: Mount Lianfeng Scenic Area, Dongshan Scenic Area and Zhonghai Beach Scenic Area. The last of these is the largest bathing beach at Beidaihe with very fine sand, clear water and gentle surf. 

The Miniature Stone Sculptures of Fuzhou

PHOTOS & TEXT BY LIN JIAN

The miniature Shoushan stone sculptures native to Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province, are not perhaps as well known as the city's famous ivory, rice or walnut carvings. However, this exquisite handicraft, which appeared just a few years ago, has its own unique style. The stone produced at Shoushan, in the outskirts of Fuzhou, is translucent and comes in a variety of colours.

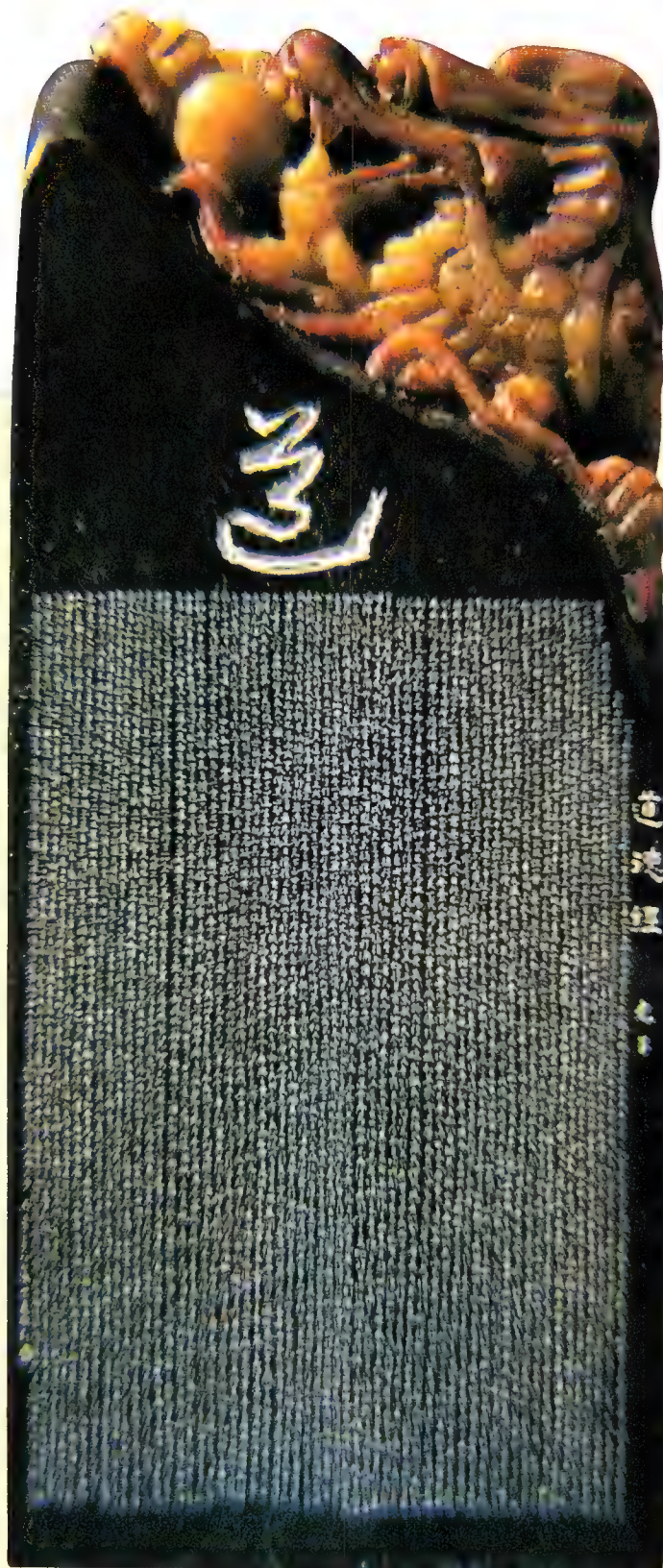
*Inscription by
Wang Xizhi,
famous Eastern
Jin calligrapher*



*"Seven Able and
Virtuous Men in a
Bamboo Grove"
(6cm x 6cm
including
pedestal)*



The art of miniature carving has a long history and can be traced back to ancient times. Some of the minute inscriptions on oracle bones dating back to the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th centuries B.C.) were executed by using techniques employed in this art.



*The full text of Laozi's 5,000-character Dao De Jing carved on a
5cm x 2cm stone*

Miniature Shoushan stone sculpture carries forward the tradition of ancient China's traditional arts: painting, calligraphy and seal carving. Its pioneer is a skilled master named Chen Zhongsen. Whereas a calligrapher or painter works with a brush, Chen uses a knife in creating his inscribed works of art. He has been dubbed, therefore, "the iron writing brush". He wields his knife in a way that produces the same result as a calligrapher or painter handling his brush. Chen believes the fascination of miniature sculpture lies not only in its delicacy and scale, but also in its being a fusion of calligraphy, painting and stone carving.

One of his best creations is the 5,000-character text of Laozi's classic Taoist book, the *Dao De Jing*, carved on a black Shoushan stone only five centimetres long and two centimetres wide. The characters are as fine as mosquito legs, but looking through a high-power magnifying glass, one finds that they are dexterously executed in a smooth yet graceful style. All the strokes, be they horizontal, vertical, falling or hook movements, are neatly and distinctly incised as if written by a calligrapher.

Not only can Chen Zhongsen write on stone, he can paint on it as well. His works "Lament", "The Seven Able and Virtuous Men in a Bamboo Grove" and "Buddha" look like Chinese paintings and have their own intrinsic aesthetic appeal. They are also excellent examples of the exquisite workmanship which makes miniature sculpture so attractive.

What is perhaps most remarkable about Chen's works is that he does not rely on a magnifying glass while carving. In fact, he even closes his eyes in the process letting his artistic instinct guide his hands. He first carves his original idea at one go on a tiny stone and then puts the finishing touches on his work.

Another technique he excels at is called *bo yi*. A work produced with this technique has a thin (*bo*) layer of carving and the visual effect (*yi*) of a painting. Take for instance the carving *Huang (Yellow) Bo Yi* done with this technique. Its layout is complicated yet neat, as the motif is both simple and elegant. It is a singular aesthetic achievement that Chen Zhongsen succeeded in merging the features of calligraphy, painting and sculpture within the confines of a tiny stone.

Translated by Anne Yan

A carving of the poet Qu Yuan, and his most famous work Li Sao carved on the reverse side, sculpted on a 4cm x 15cm stone.



◀ An example of Huang bo yi — a thin layer of carving with the effect of a painting

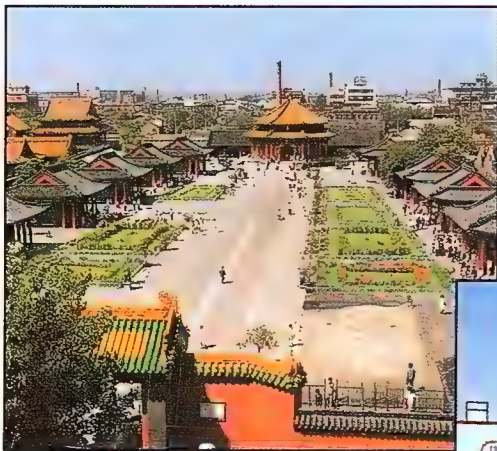
▼ A considerably powerful magnifier is needed to properly see this small piece of miniature stone sculpture.



A carving of calligraphy in cursive style

Miniature stone sculptures make lovely necklace pendants which are quite popular in the United States, Japan and Hong Kong.

Highlights Around Shenyang City in Liaoning



The Imperial Palace in Shenyang

Shenyang, the capital city of Liaoning Province, is an old and important industrial base in China. With abundant mineral resources, it is also a major economic centre in Northeast China. Easily accessible from Beijing, Liaoning Province has a long coastline and shares part of its border with North Korea. In the capital city of Shenyang, a number of tourist spots are worth a visit.

Liaoning Provincial Museum Originally named the Northeast Museum, the museum is situated on Tianjing Street in the Heping District of Shenyang. First opened to the public on July 7, 1949, the museum has in its collection a large number of old maps, bronze objects, porcelain, pottery, carvings, inscribed tortoise shells, silk embroidery, minority costumes, calligraphy and paintings, totalling more than 3,000 objects. The museum's collection of callig-



Shenyang Steam Locomotive Museum

raphy and paintings is the largest in the country. To reach the museum, take a trolley bus from the railway station.

Shenyang Steam Locomotive Museum This museum, opened on September 22, 1984, is the first and only one of its kind in China. On display at the museum are old-style steam locomotives made in 12 different countries. Among them, Model PL-1 made in the U.S.A. and Model SL7-751 made in Japan are considered the most typical and representative. The Shenyang Steam Locomotive Museum covers an area of 8,000 square metres and is located in the Sujiatun District, about 15 kilometres from Shenyang.



Mount Qianshan Mount Qianshan, a well-known scenic spot in this region, lies 120 kilometres south of Shenyang. Here the mountain range is covered with jagged rocks in strange shapes, and dozens of temples are set amidst a forest of green pines and cypresses. Tourists to Mount Qianshan can enjoy the natural beauty of the area as well as the thrill of climbing mountain peaks and the tranquillity of the many temples.

Shenyang Imperial Palace Located in the centre of the old city of Shenyang, the Imperial Palace was built between 1625 and 1636 as a royal residence for Emperor Taizu and his son Taizong of the Qing Dynasty. There are about 90 buildings partitioned into 300 rooms, covering a total area of 4.6 hectares. The palace is a harmonious blending of distinctive features of the Han, Mongol and Manchu nationalities, and is one of the largest imperial palace structures in China. Later during the reigns of Kangxi and Qianlong it was rebuilt and renovated, and is now open to the public. Inside the palace many objects used by the Qing court are on view, including the "Tiger Sword" of Taizu, his imperial seal, and costumes, bows and arrows belonging to Taizong. For transport to the palace, take the No. 7, 9, 10, 211, 217, 218 or 222 trolley bus or public bus.

Zhaoling (North Mausoleum) Built in 1643, Zhaoling is the mausoleum of Huangtaiji, or Emperor Taizong (1592-1643) of the Qing Dynasty, and his wife. It is generally known as the North Mausoleum because it is situated to the north of old Shenyang City. The largest of the three early Qing tombs, the mausoleum is composed of a number of enclosed walls, stone archways, stone animals, steles and more. Two of the stone animals on view here are imitations of the horses ridden by Taizong. During the Qing Dynasty, the mausoleum was strictly off-limits to visitors, but is now open to the public. For transport, take the No. 3, 15, 210, 213 or 220 trolley bus or public bus.

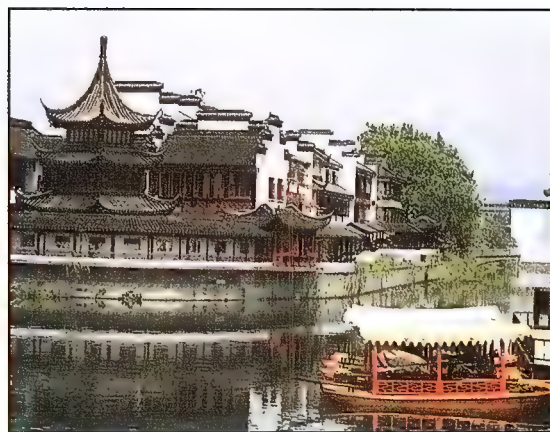
Fuling (East Mausoleum) Fuling, located 11 kilometres northeast of Shenyang, is the tomb of Nurhachi, or Emperor Taizu (1559-1626) of the Qing Dynasty, and his wife. Built during the years 1629 to 1651, the tomb covers 19.5 hectares and includes a unique 108-step stairway leading up to the ceremonial buildings and burial ground. The mausoleum is surrounded on all sides by walls, and has a gate in the south called Zhenghe (Harmony) Gate. Its lateral glazed walls are carved with five-coloured coiling dragons. Along both sides of the main path leading to the mausoleum are pairs of stone lions, horses, tigers, camels and other animals. For transport, take bus No.18 from the Shenyang Imperial Palace.

The Pagoda of Buddhist Ashes Situated in the northwest of Shenyang City, this 30.5-metre-high, 13-storey pagoda built in 1044 is a multi-eaved, octagonal structure made of brick, the only one of its kind built during the Liao Dynasty. Housed here are murals, urns for storing the ashes of Living Buddhas and other objects. The ashes kept here are the remains of cremated high-ranking Buddhists. In 1985, a large amount of precious artwork was found in the pagoda, and is now on exhibit inside.

Ruins of the Xinle Neolithic Site Xinle is the site of a village which dates back to the Neolithic Period some 7,200 years ago. The site covers a total area of 17.4 hectares, with 2.5 hectares used for habitation. The unearthed findings here include objects made of stone, wood carvings, pottery, bone, jade and carbonized grain, fruit and nuts. Now, objects from 11 places within the site have been unearthed, and are open to viewing by the public in an exhibition hall. The site can be reached by walking from the Zhaoling Mausoleum along Huanghe Avenue (about 15 minutes).



Special Tours in Jiangsu Province



Pleasure-boats are available for a cruise along the Qinhuai River.

Jiangsu Province, located on China's eastern coast, is home to some of the country's most historic and beautiful cities — Suzhou, Yangzhou and Wuxi in particular. With the sprawling metropolis of Shanghai at its foot, the province also encompasses the vast Taihu Lake, Hongze Lake and the city of Nanjing. The Yangtze River flows across the bottom of Jiangsu, and this, together with its many lakes and long coastline, make the province a land of great natural charm.

In recent years the provincial tourism authorities have set up a number of highly successful special-interest tours covering a wide range of activities.

Study Tours Jiangsu travel agencies offer one of the country's most popular tours for foreign students. These tours give students an opportunity to visit schools, museums and cultural sites, attend sports events, take part in calligraphy competitions and learn about the lives of ordinary Chinese citizens.

Grand Canal Tours The Grand Canal was once a crucial communications link in Jiangsu Province, and although trains and buses have taken over that role, the canal still functions between the cities of Yangzhou, Suzhou, Wuxi and Zhenjiang. Visitors can take a pleasure cruise along the canal, enjoy the beautiful scenery and observe life along this ancient waterway. Over 30 tourist boats are available, ranging from small dragon boats to 100-person pleasure crafts.

Silk Tours The two coastal provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang have long been known for their production of silk, as the climate here is ideal for raising silkworms and the people are very proficient at spinning and weaving. The silk tour takes visitors to Nanjing, Zhenjiang, Wuxi and

Suzhou, and teaches them about the entire process of silk-making, from the raising of silkworms to dyeing and weaving. A wide variety of silk products are also available for purchase.

Health Tours People interested in experiencing traditional therapies such as herbal medicines, acupuncture and massage might want to take part in this special tour. Tourists with ailments of the joints, nerves or digestive system will especially benefit from this tour, as half their time will be spent in undergoing treatment and the other half sightseeing. Visitors can also study the ancient Chinese arts of *taijiquan*, *qigong* and swordplay. The tour takes place on the shores of beautiful Taihu Lake and in the city of Wuxi.

Emperor Qianlong Water Tours Tourists visiting the ancient city of Yangzhou might want to join this tour, which follows in the footsteps of Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty. Pleasure boats take visitors to over 20 scenic spots along the Grand Canal and Slender West Lake, where they can enjoy the same sites that Emperor Qianlong visited some 200 years ago.

Qinhuai Folklore Tours People planning a trip to Nanjing should consider taking a boat tour along the Qinhuai River. This tour offers visitors a chance to learn about the folk customs of the Nanjing people, and will combine activities such as sightseeing, shopping and entertainment.

Pearl Cultivation on Jinji Lake Located in a suburb of Suzhou, Jinji Lake is an important base for pearl cultivation. On this tour, visitors have a chance to collect pearls, watch fishermen at work and visit the homes of people living along the shores of the lake.



Places of Interest in Hunan Province

Travellers planning a visit to Mao Zedong's birthplace of Shaoshan in Hunan Province might want to consider extending their trip to include some of Hunan's many other scenic sights. Besides the capital city of Changsha and the well-known Dongting Lake, one can also visit the fantastic Wulingyuan Scenic Area, the ancient town of Fenghuang, or take a look at one of the province's most beautiful mountain ranges, the Hengshan Mountains.

Hunan is also home to a large number of minority people including the Miao, Tujia, Dong, Yao and other groups, who live scattered in fairly remote mountain areas. The best place to see minority villages is in the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, located in the north-west part of the province and running all the way from Fenghuang to the border town of Longshan.

The Wulingyuan Tourist Area

Located in the northern corner of Hunan, the Wulingyuan Tourist Area is a triangle-shaped zone that encompasses three major sights: the Zhangjiajie National Woodland Park in Dayong, Mount Tianzi in Sangzhi County and the Suoxi Canyon in Cili County. Zhangjiajie, Dayong and Cili are all situated along a railway line, and Sangzhi is accessible by bus.

One can easily see all these places in a week or so. Mount Tianzi, located two hours from Sangzhi, has only been open to tourists in recent years, and is a good starting point from which to tour the area. At the top of the mountain, which is over 1,200 metres above sea level, is Guanri (Sunrise Viewing) Terrace, where one has a wonderful view of the many peaks and sandstone formations. There is a great deal to see on Mount Tianzi, including Xianren Bridge, a natural stone bridge that spans two peaks, and some 80 other scenic spots.

From Shijiayan on Mount Tianzi, one can walk downhill to Suoxi Canyon, a 15-kilometre, three-hour trek. Suoxi Canyon stands at 1,262 metres above sea level and comprises a total of 200 scenic sights. The landscape in the canyon is quite different from Mount Tianzi, with numerous karst caves, ravines, forests and waterfalls. The area is also home to hundreds of species of rare animals and 20 species of rare birds.

From Suoxi Canyon one can either take a bus or walk the 12 kilometres to Zhangjiajie. Of the three places, this is the mostly frequently visited and well-known area for sightseeing, as it was the first to



A tranquil scene at Suoxi Canyon in northern Hunan (by Lin Gang)

be developed. Designated a national woodland park, the scenery here includes ravines, streams and exotic flowers and plants. The general tourist route is to climb two peaks that stand opposite each other, called Huangshizhai and Yaozizhai. The crags and vertical pillars of stone here are similar to Mount Tianzi, and from the summit of the two peaks one has a panoramic view of the surrounding area.

Fenghuang (Phoenix) County

Previously a town but now officially made a county seat, Fenghuang is located in the western part of Hunan near the borders of Sichuan and Guizhou, and can be reached by taking a train to Huaihua, followed by a three-hour bus ride. This town has a large number of ancient buildings and has retained an atmosphere of rustic charm. Being situated on the outer limit of the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous

Prefecture, about half of the population belongs to these two groups.

Because of the town's name, phoenix images are a common sight, often decorating the roofs of the old buildings. Running through the town is the Tuojiang River, where local people come to wash their clothes or bathe, and the stilt houses of the Tujia line its banks. Narrow alleys and lanes are flanked by low houses built in traditional Chinese style, with projecting eaves and tiled roofs.

Fenghuang was established during the 18th century as a garrison for the Qing army. At one time there were ten watchtowers and cannons guarding the town, and two of these watchtowers still stand today. A 20-minute walk from Fenghuang's North Gate is a Taoist temple called Tianhuang Temple, also built in the Qing Dynasty. Not far away is the Chen Family Ancestral Hall, which has a large stage in front where *nuo* dramas are often performed.

Twenty-five kilometres from Fenghuang is the market town of Ala, which attracts people from all over the region. Nearby is a town much older than Fenghuang called Huangsiqiao. Built in 687 during the Tang Dynasty, this was also originally a garrison for imperial troops, and the stone walls that surround the village are still intact. Only four hectares in area, the village is home to just a few dozen Han and Miao families.

The Minority Villages of Western Hunan

Western Hunan has long been an extremely remote area, isolated from the outside world for most of its history. Although this is no longer entirely true, the rugged terrain and many minority people living

Train Info

| Destination | No. of Hours |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Guangzhou ↔ Zhangjiajie | 27 |
| Changsha ↔ Zhangjiajie | 15 |
| Huaihua ↔ Changsha | 7 |
| Changsha ↔ Hengyang | 3.5 |

Distances (in kilometres) within Hunan

| | Changsha | Yueyang | Miluo | Changde | Hengyang | Nanyue | Xiangtan | Shaoshan | Chenzhou | Zhangjiajie | Suoxi Canyon | Mount Tianzi |
|----------------|----------|---------|-------|---------|----------|--------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Yueyang | 162 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Miluo | 94 | 91 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Changde | 230 | 392 | 324 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hengyang | 200 | 362 | 294 | 409 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nanyue | 150 | 312 | 244 | 362 | 47 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Xiangtan | 54 | 216 | 148 | 253 | 146 | 96 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Shaoshan | 87 | 266 | 198 | 217 | 192 | 142 | 46 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chenzhou | 351 | 513 | 445 | 560 | 151 | 198 | 291 | 337 | — | — | — | — |
| Zhangjiajie | 416 | 578 | 510 | 275 | 640 | 593 | 440 | 404 | 747 | — | — | — |
| Suoxi Canyon | 383 | 545 | 477 | 220 | 585 | 538 | 285 | 349 | 692 | 114 | — | — |
| Mount Tianzi | 491 | 653 | 585 | 322 | 683 | 636 | 487 | 451 | 794 | 116 | 189 | — |
| Mengdong River | 512 | 684 | 606 | 312 | 712 | 662 | 566 | 599 | 863 | 98 | 212 | 189 |

here mean that many of the customs still practised here died out long ago in other parts of the province. About 761,000 Miao people live in Hunan, with most of them concentrated in towns in the northwest such as Fenghuang, Huayuan, Jishou, Baojing, Guzhang and Luxi.

The Miao women in this area are easily recognizable by their distinctive black turbans, which are made by wrapping a 12-metre length of fabric round their heads. They generally wear outfits made of blue or black material and decorated with intricately embroidered motifs of butterflies, flowers, birds and trees. Situated in the centre of the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture is Wangcun Village, best known as the setting for the award-winning film *A Small Town Called Hibiscus*. Also now called Furongzhen (Hi-

biscus Town), Wangcun is located in a secluded mountain area along the banks of the Youshui River. Director Xie Jin travelled all over the region before he finally found this place, whose ancient architecture and atmosphere matched the town in the story perfectly.


Just west of Jishou, the main town of the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, is the Dehang Scenic Area, a Miao-inhabited region with extraordinary scenery. The highest waterfall in China, Liusha Waterfall, is here, as are many Miao stockaded villages. In Aizhai, one of these villages, there are frequent fairs and festivals. The stockaded village of Dehang is located at the bottom of a valley, and another village also worth visiting is called Jidouzhai, situated at the top of sheer cliffs with a wonderful view.

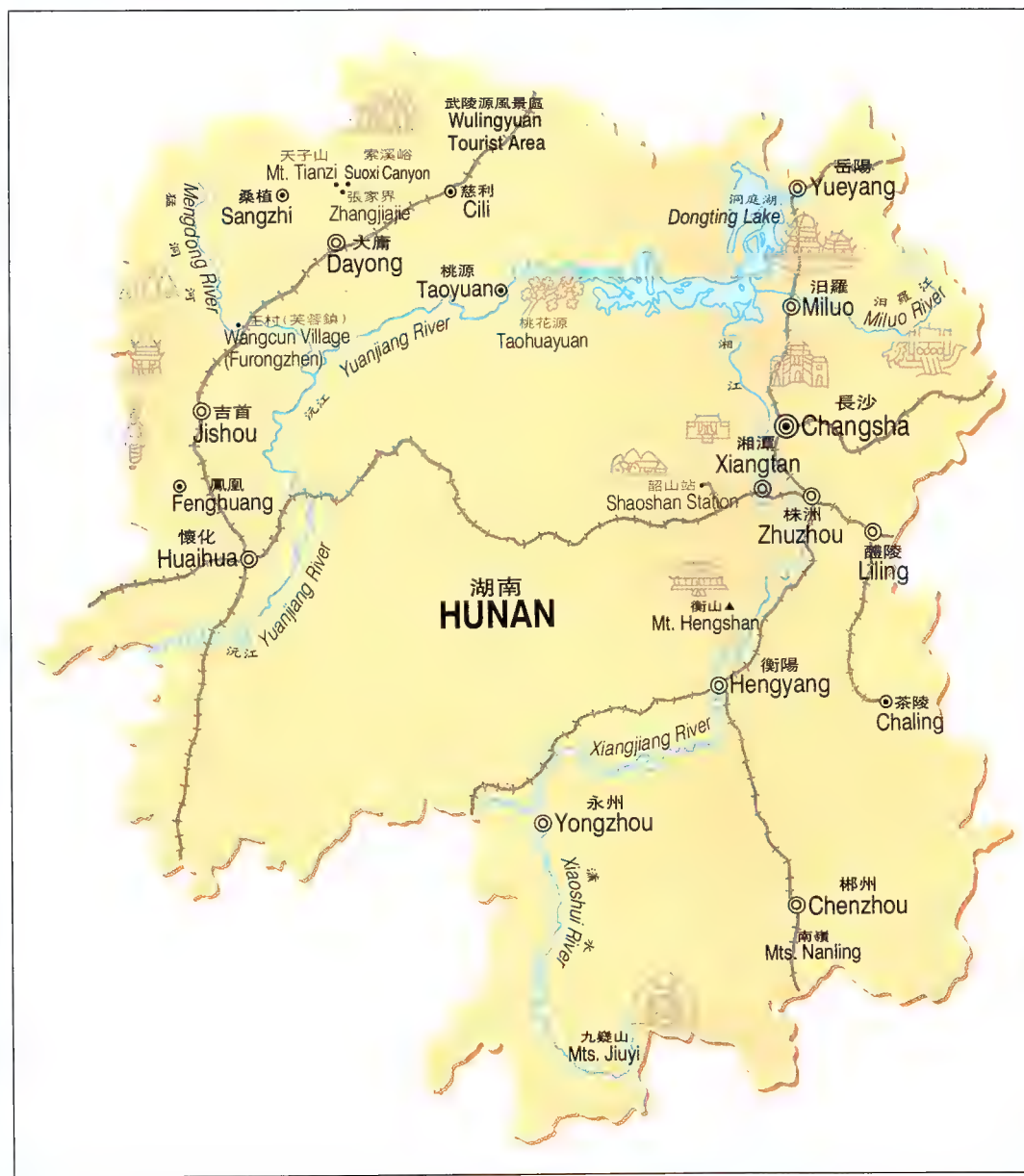
The Magnificent Hengshan Mountains

Hunan is a hilly province with a number of mountain ranges surrounding and bisecting it. One of the most scenic and popular mountain areas to visit, although still fairly unknown to foreigners, is the Hengshan Mountain Range.

Hengshan is located not far south of Changsha, and is reached by going first to the city of Hengyang. One of China's five sacred mountains, Hengshan's 72 peaks stretch for miles all the way up to Yuelu Mountain in Changsha. One can either walk or take a bus up the mountain to see the fantastic scenery and many temples, both Buddhist and Taoist. The highest peak here is Zhurong Peak, standing at 1,290 metres, atop which are two Buddhist temples. The oldest temple on Hengshan dates back to the year 725 and two others to the 6th century.

Since the Tang Dynasty, famous poets such as Du Fu and Li Bai have been coming here to gain inspiration and enjoy the beauty of nature. One can visit Hengshan all year round, with each season having its own special charm. In winter snow covers the mountains and trees; in autumn the sunrise is a major attraction; in summer the "sea of clouds" seen from the peaks is especially enchanting, and in spring there is a flower market.

Apart from Hengshan, the other places mentioned above are all located in the western part of the province, therefore the best way to visit them would be to start out in Changsha and take a train to Zhangjiajie. From Zhangjiajie one can visit the Wulingyuan Tourist Area and then go south by bus to Jishou to tour the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture. From Jishou, a number of day trips are possible to neighbouring Miao villages, including the ancient town of Fenghuang. From there, go by bus to Huaihua, where one can get a train back to Changsha. Time permitting, from Changsha one can travel south to Hengyang to visit the Hengshan Mountains. 



Average Climatic Conditions in Hunan, Shanxi, Zhejiang, Jilin, Heilongjiang and Hainan

| | | | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Hunan | Changsha | Temperature (°C) | 4.7 | 6.2 | 10.9 | 16.8 | 21.6 | 25.9 | 29.3 | 28.7 | 24.2 | 18.5 | 12.5 | 7.1 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 59.1 | 87.8 | 139.8 | 201.6 | 230.8 | 188.9 | 112.5 | 116.9 | 62.7 | 81.4 | 63.0 | 45.3 |
| | Zhuzhou | Temperature (°C) | 5.0 | 6.6 | 11.4 | 17.3 | 21.7 | 26.1 | 29.6 | 28.9 | 24.6 | 18.8 | 12.8 | 7.7 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 65.7 | 97.1 | 139.6 | 207.1 | 233.7 | 196.8 | 104.9 | 119.7 | 56.2 | 70.3 | 67.4 | 51.0 |
| | Xiangtan | Temperature (°C) | 4.9 | 6.3 | 11.3 | 17.1 | 21.8 | 26.0 | 29.5 | 28.8 | 24.2 | 18.5 | 12.6 | 7.4 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 57.8 | 86.4 | 125.6 | 193.0 | 217.0 | 191.7 | 90.7 | 114.9 | 50.9 | 71.3 | 71.0 | 45.2 |
| | Hengyang | Temperature (°C) | 5.6 | 7.0 | 11.6 | 17.4 | 22.2 | 26.4 | 29.8 | 29.1 | 25.1 | 19.4 | 13.4 | 8.1 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 60.9 | 90.4 | 137.5 | 192.0 | 213.2 | 182.2 | 86.3 | 117.4 | 43.6 | 82.1 | 74.9 | 57.0 |
| Shanxi | Taiyuan | Temperature (°C) | -6.6 | -3.1 | 3.7 | 11.4 | 17.7 | 21.7 | 23.5 | 21.8 | 16.1 | 9.9 | 2.1 | -4.9 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 3.0 | 6.0 | 10.3 | 23.8 | 30.1 | 52.6 | 118.3 | 103.6 | 64.3 | 30.8 | 13.2 | 3.4 |
| Zhejiang | Hangzhou | Temperature (°C) | 3.8 | 5.1 | 9.3 | 15.4 | 20.2 | 24.3 | 28.6 | 28.0 | 23.3 | 17.7 | 12.1 | 6.3 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 62.2 | 88.7 | 114.1 | 130.4 | 179.9 | 196.2 | 126.5 | 136.5 | 177.6 | 77.9 | 54.7 | 54.0 |
| Jilin | Jilin | Temperature (°C) | -18.0 | -14.3 | -3.7 | 6.7 | 14.7 | 19.9 | 22.9 | 21.2 | 14.7 | 6.5 | -3.9 | -13.4 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 5.4 | 6.2 | 12.5 | 31.5 | 53.3 | 104.3 | 194.9 | 133.9 | 68.0 | 42.2 | 15.6 | 6.4 |
| | Tianchi Lake | Temperature (°C) | -23.2 | -21.5 | -16.6 | -8.1 | -0.9 | 4.0 | 8.6 | 8.1 | 1.5 | -5.5 | -13.6 | -20.6 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 12.7 | 14.5 | 36.0 | 73.2 | 106.5 | 186.7 | 346.2 | 307.3 | 138.6 | 51.2 | 41.5 | 18.3 |
| Heilongjiang | Harbin | Temperature (°C) | -19.4 | -15.3 | -4.9 | 6.2 | 14.3 | 19.8 | 22.8 | 21.1 | 14.4 | 5.7 | -5.8 | -15.7 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 3.9 | 4.7 | 11.7 | 22.0 | 36.0 | 75.8 | 169.2 | 100.4 | 70.7 | 27.3 | 6.9 | 5.1 |
| Hainan | Haikou | Temperature (°C) | 17.2 | 18.2 | 21.6 | 24.9 | 27.4 | 28.1 | 28.4 | 27.7 | 26.8 | 24.8 | 21.8 | 18.7 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 23.6 | 30.4 | 52.0 | 92.8 | 182.6 | 241.6 | 206.7 | 239.5 | 302.8 | 172.4 | 97.6 | 38.0 |

Train Schedules

Beijing — Xuzhou — Shanghai

| 65 Exp. | 63 Exp. | 55/58 Exp. | 45 Exp. | Train Station | No. | 46 Exp. | 56/57 Exp. | 64 Exp. | 66 Exp. |
|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| 18:30 | 15:05 | From Harbin | 10:40 | Beijing | 05:45 | To Harbin | 12:19 | 13:50 | |
| 20:35 | 17:06 | | 12:40 | Tianjin West | 04:04 | | 10:34 | 11:56 | |
| 23:41 | 20:11 | 12:44 | — | Dezhou | — | 00:41 | 07:28 | 09:00 | |
| 01:42 | 22:12 | 14:50 | 17:29 | Jinan South | 23:27 | 22:53 | 05:29 | 06:57 | |
| 06:29 | 02:55 | 19:37 | 21:52 | Xuzhou | 19:11 | 18:02 | 00:49 | 02:17 | |
| 09:10 | 05:35 | 22:03 | 00:20 | Bengbu | 16:47 | 15:36 | 22:16 | 23:45 | |
| — | 07:50 | — | — | Hefei | — | — | 19:45 | — | |
| 12:12 | — | 00:41 | 03:01 | Nanjing | 14:17 | 13:08 | — | 21:13 | |
| 12:22 | — | — | — | Nanjing West | — | — | — | — | |
| — | — | 02:40 | 04:49 | Changzhou | 12:24 | 11:03 | — | — | |
| — | — | — | 07:29 | Shanghai West | 10:10 | — | — | — | |
| — | — | 05:08 | To Fuzhou | Shanghai | From Fuzhou | 08:32 | — | — | |

Train Schedules Beijing — Shanghai

| 21 Exp. | 13 Exp. | Train Station | No. | 14 Exp. | 22 Exp. |
|------------|------------|------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| 21:55 | 14:40 | Beijing | 09:03 | 12:56 | |
| 23:41 | 16:27 | Tianjin West | 07:25 | 11:18 | |
| 03:44 | 20:29 | Jinan South | 03:30 | 07:23 | |
| 09:40 | 02:28 | Bengbu | 21:22 | 01:15 | |
| 15:27 | 08:12 | Shanghai | 15:46 | 19:49 | |

Exp. — Express

Train Schedules Changsha — Zhangjiajie

| 27/26 Exp. | Train Station | No. | 28/25 Exp. |
|-------------------|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| From Guangzhou | | | To Guangzhou |
| 22:16 | Changsha | 07:42 | |
| — | Zhuzhou | — | |
| 23:33 | Xiangtan | 06:10 | |
| — | Xiangxiang | — | |
| 01:25 | Loudi | 04:10 | |
| 03:07 | Lengshuijiang | 02:42 | |
| — | Xupu | — | |
| 08:13 | Huaihua | 21:47 | |
| — | Yuping | — | |
| — | Kaili | — | |
| — | Guiyang | — | |
| 10:28 | Jishou | 19:27 | |
| 11:39 | Mengdonghe | 18:10 | |
| 13:13 | Zhangjiajie | 16:25 | |

Train Schedules Changsha — Shaoshan

| Shaoshan 1 | Train Station | No. | Shaoshan 2 |
|---------------|------------------|-------|---------------|
| 07:05 | Changsha | 19:44 | |
| 07:28 | Datuopu | — | |
| 07:56 | Tianxin | 18:45 | |
| 08:22 | Zhuzhou | 18:35 | |
| 08:37 | Qingshuitan | 18:00 | |
| 08:50 | Shilichong | — | |
| 09:25 | Xiangtan | 17:27 | |
| 09:48 | Jiangshe | 17:00 | |
| 10:00 | Yunhuqiao | 16:49 | |
| 10:14 | Xiangshao | 16:38 | |
| 10:30 | Yintian | 16:16 | |
| 10:45 | Shaoshan | 16:00 | |

Train Schedules Beijing — Guangzhou

| 29 Exp. | Train Station | No. | 30 Exp. |
|------------|------------------|-------|------------|
| 22:30 | Beijing | 06:00 | |
| 01:57 | Shijiazhuang | 02:44 | |
| 06:56 | Zhengzhou | 21:40 | |
| 10:53 | Xinyang | 17:40 | |
| 14:21 | Wuchang | 13:59 | |
| 19:27 | Changsha | 08:59 | |
| 22:21 | Hengyang | 06:03 | |
| 00:44 | Chenzhou | 03:40 | |
| 03:20 | Shaoguan | 01:07 | |
| 06:29 | Guangzhou | 21:46 | |

Train Schedules Harbin — Heihe

| Heihe 1 | Train Station | No. | Heihe 2 |
|------------|------------------|-------|------------|
| 18:25 | Harbin | 08:09 | |
| 20:18 | Suihua | 06:33 | |
| 23:53 | Bei'an | 02:57 | |
| — | Wudalianchi | — | |
| 01:25 | Longzhen | 01:33 | |
| 04:24 | Sunwu | 22:36 | |
| 07:23 | Heihe | 19:42 | |

Shaoshan, Mao Zedong's Birthplace


Today, Mao Xiasheng not only has this enlarged photo hung on his wall but also has reproduced it into many large prints, and sells it to visitors in front of his house. These photos are his own exclusive souvenirs, which no one can imitate.

Mao Zedong's Secret Hideaway, the Drip Drop Cave

After leaving Mao Zedong's old residence, I got on a tourist bus and went upstream along the Shaohe River. The bus drove along a mountain road for about four kilometres, then entered a long, narrow canyon. The bus stopped in front of a large gate and I got out to have a look. The gate seemed to consist of many hanging stalactites, but a closer look revealed that the stalactites were cement imitations. I entered the gate and saw that jutting out from the face of the cliff on the right side of the mountain was an inscription carved in Mao Zedong's handwriting, reading: "Di Shui Dong" (Drip Drop Cave).

This was Mao Zedong's secret hiding place, where he came when he wanted to be alone. In June 1966, Mao Zedong stayed in a villa here for about a fortnight. After he emerged from his "cave", he returned to Beijing and immediately launched the "cultural revolution".

The villa at Drip Drop Cave is hidden in a basin covered with trees and surrounded by undulating mountains. No matter what season of the year it is or from what direction you look at it, it is impossible to see the building clearly. When Mao Zedong came to stay here, he wrote letters to others saying that he was staying in "the western mountain cave". So the term "western mountain cave" immediately became a great mystery, and very few people knew its whereabouts.

Today, the villa at Drip Drop Cave is finally open to the public. Most of the visitors who come to Shaoshan will invariably come to have a look at this "villa of top secrecy" out of sheer curiosity. In the busiest tourist seasons the number of visitors reaches 10,000 a day, and this once secluded forest villa becomes as crowded and festive as a temple fair. 

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

End of the Journey: Part Three of "By Motorbike Along China's Borders"

Armed border police from Hunchun City and Korean villagers from Lishugou came to my rescue, using a tractor to pull me through the flooded area. I drove over the Laoye Ridge and finally saw the expansive land of Heilongjiang up ahead.

All the way from Dongning County to Xingkai Lake it was nothing but rain and water. The highway by the Wusuli River was totally submerged and I had to ask for help from the border guards, who put my motorbike on a boat and took me downstream.

The Wusuli River has a charm and beauty all its own. Trees on both banks cast their shadows on the water and the river is now wide, now narrow. Beyond the river on the Russian side were a number of border viewing posts, reminding me of the complex history of this now peaceful and quiet border. The water level in the river had visibly risen two to three metres above its normal level. The water's flow, however, was gentle and made navigation easy.

Wusu is known as the first town in China to greet the sunrise, as it is located in the easternmost point of Chinese territory. In order to allow me the opportunity to see the sunrise, the captain was kind enough to decide to spend a night here.


Home at Last!

To enter the Heilongjiang River from the Wusuli, we were now sailing against the current. We stayed for the night in the town of Bacha in Tongjiang City so that we could visit the ethnic minority there called the Hezhen.

The Hezhen threw a fish banquet to welcome the return of this Heilongjiang native. On the table there were raw fish slices, fried fish slices dipped in sauce, and a cold dish made of four kinds of fish meat. The carp soup was exceptionally delicious. There is a strong bond between the Hezhen people and fish. They are outstanding fishermen, and in the past even their clothes were made of fish skin.

After we crossed the point where the Songhua and Heilongjiang rivers met, I went ashore. Over the next few days of fine, sunny weather, I drove over a vast expanse of black soil belonging to the 290th Farm in Suibin County to photograph their wheat harvest, soy bean fields and huge granaries. I also made a special trip to Zhenrong Village, my birthplace by the Songhua River. I took pictures of the earth hut where I was born and many more photos of my former fellow villagers. Before leaving, I scooped up a handful of black soil to take with me.

Born in northern China where the Songhua and Heilongjiang rivers merge, I am a border person by birth. It is the blood of border people that circulates in my veins. It was here that I seemed to have found my reason for making this journey along China's borders, despite the hardships and loneliness that accompanied me.

At 9:19 a.m. on September 9, 1991, I finally returned to Heihe City from where I had set out five years ago. In that time, I have completed a journey of 80,000 kilometres, and in the process have deepened my knowledge and understanding of this land and its neighbours. 

April 23, 1993, Beijing

Translated by Huang Youyi



Major Hotels in Hunan and Hainan Provinces

Changsha, Hunan

Hua Tian Great Hotel

華天大酒店

16 Jiefang Road East, Changsha, Hunan 410001

Tel: 442888 Telex: 982021 HTDJD CN

Fax: 0731-442270

GM: Zhu Fang Di

Opened 8 May 1988

311 rooms and 10 suites Rates: Deluxe US\$76, commercial US\$108

Located in the city centre, 30 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥60; railway station, Rmb ¥10

Facilities: 18 Chinese and Western restaurants, 14 meeting rooms, business centre, coffee shop, bar, discotheque, music hall, billiard room, indoor swimming pool, sauna, shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage, health club

Lotus Hotel

芙蓉賓館

9 Wuyi Road East, Changsha, Hunan 410001

Tel: 401888 Telex: 98132 HNLH CN

Fax: 445175

GM: Xiao Zhengxiang

275 rooms and suites

Located in the heart of the city

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, 300-seat banquet hall, coffee shop, shopping arcade, bar, beauty salon, massage

Qingyuan Hotel (No.1 Building)

青園賓館(1棟)

2 Qingyuan Road, Changsha, Hunan 410004

Tel: 34816 Fax: 442579

GM: Li Yingchang

Facilities: Restaurant with Hunan dishes, meeting rooms

Rongyuan Hotel

蓉園賓館

1 Furong Road, Changsha, Hunan 410011

Tel: 267194 Fax: 443668

GM: Zhang Deqiu

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms

Xiangjiang Hotel

湘江賓館

2 Zhongshan Road, Changsha, Hunan 410005

Tel: 446888, 408888 Telex: 98131 XIANG CN

Fax: 0731-448285

GM: Fei Xiangyao

Opened July 1988

300 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$22-35, suite US\$50-80, deluxe suite US\$270

Located in the heart of the city, 40 minutes from airport, 5 minutes from railway station

Facilities: 14 restaurants offering Hunan and Western dishes, coffee shop, bar, shopping arcade, discotheque, beauty salon, massage

Zhuzhou, Hunan

Qingyun Hotel

慶雲賓館

1 Chezhan Road, Zhuzhou, Hunan 412008

Tel: 24851, 22951 Telex: 995011 QYCZH CN

Fax: 0733-25336



GM: Xie Yixi

Opened 25 December 1987

300 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$25-35, suite US\$48-70

Located opposite the railway station, 70 km from airport

Facilities: 4 restaurants (800 seats), business centre, coffee shop, beauty salon, karaoke, gym

Changde, Hunan

Taolin Hotel

桃林賓館

Jianshe Road East, Changde, Hunan 415000

Tel: 226930

GM: Zeng Guo'an

Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan and Guangdong cuisines

Zhiyuan Hotel

芷園賓館

Renmin Road East, Changde, Hunan 415000

Tel: 224315

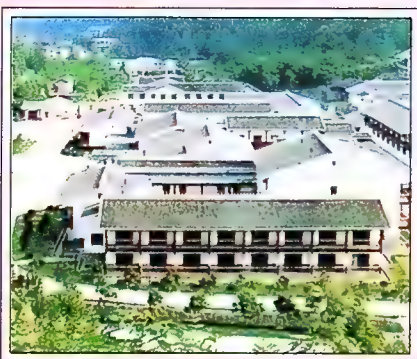
GM: Zhao Yi

Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan dishes

Dayong, Hunan

Pipaxi Hotel

琵琶溪賓館



Zhangjiajie, Dayong, Hunan 416680

Tel: 712255, 712393 Fax: (07483)713325

GM: Xiao Jianchun

Opened 18 August 1990

195 rooms and suites

Located in the area of Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, 40 km from the city, 35 km from railway station

Facilities: 6 restaurants and banquet halls, 7 meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, clinic, massage, beauty salon, bar, billiard room

Tuofeng Hotel

駝峰山莊

Suoxiyu, Dayong, Hunan 415811

Tel: 618025

GM: Kang Defeng

Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan dishes

Wulingyuan Hotel

武陵源賓館

Suoxiyu, Dayong, Hunan 415811

Tel: 618130

GM: Liu Jinwu

Xiangdian Mountain Villa

湘電山莊

Zhangjiajie, Dayong, Hunan 416680

Tel: 712266

GM: Li Chaodong

Facilities: Restaurant offering Hunan dishes

Cili, Hunan

Cili Hotel

慈利賓館

Chengquanzhen, Cili, Dayong, Hunan 415800

Tel: 23233

Facilities: Restaurants offering Hunan dishes

Hengyang, Hunan

Hengyang Hotel

衡陽賓館

54 Xianfeng Road, Hengyang, Hunan 421001

Tel: 26921

Yancheng Guesthouse

雁城賓館

Jiefang Road, Hengyang, Hunan 421001

Tel: 26921

GM: Zhu Yuxiao

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants

Chenzhou, Hunan

Sports Guest House

體育賓館

12 Renmin Road West, Chenzhou, Hunan 423000

Tel: 224163

GM: He Ribin

Facilities: Restaurants offering Guangdong and Hunan dishes, gym

Suxian Hotel

蘇仙賓館

Suxian Road, Chenzhou, Hunan 423000

Tel: 225483

GM: Zhang Xu

Facilities: Restaurants offering Hunan dishes

Shaoyang, Hunan

Baigongcheng Hotel

白公城賓館

Chengbei Road, Shaoyang, Hunan 422600

Tel: 223412

GM: Shan Peifang

Facilities: Restaurants offering Hunan dishes

Huaihua, Hunan

Huaiyuan Hotel

懷原賓館

Yingfeng Road, Huaihua, Hunan 418000

Tel: 23404

GM: Xiao Lanying

Yueyang, Hunan

Yueyang Hotel

岳陽賓館

26 Dongting Road North, Yueyang, Hunan 414000

Tel: 223011 Telex: 994008 YALTD CN
 Fax: 225235
 GM: Liu Da Ao
 Opened 6 June 1986
 265 rooms Rates: Standard US\$40, suite US\$100
 Located in the centre of the city, 120 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, discotheque, shopping arcade, billiard room

Yueyang International Building 岳陽國際大廈



Nanhu Avenue, Yueyang, Hunan 414000
 Tel: 224811 Telex: 994015 ZBYCS CN
 Fax: 223637
 GM: Liao Hong'an
 Opened 24 January 1988
 284 rooms and suites Rates: US\$28
 Located 120 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
 Facilities: Shopping arcade, dance hall, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic

Shaoshan, Hunan

Shaoshan Guest House

韶山賓館
 Shaoshan, Xiangtan, Hunan 411301

Xiangtan, Hunan

Xiangtan Hotel

湘潭賓館
 Shaoshan Road West, Xiangtan, Hunan 411100
 Tel: 23165/61358
 74 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$20-30, suite US\$30-60

Yongzhou, Hunan

Xiao Xiang Hotel, Lingling

零陵瀟湘賓館
 16 Chengbei Road, Yongzhou, Hunan 425000
 Tel: (07401) 225206
 GM: Chen Aimin
 Opened March 1987
 130 rooms and 5 suites Rates: Double FEC ¥120, triple FEC ¥75, suite FEC ¥388
 Located 10 km from airport, 20 km from railway station
 Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥10; railway station, FEC ¥25
 Facilities: Restaurants, 6 conference rooms, karaoke, dancing hall, beauty salon, massage, billiard room, gym

Haikou, Hainan

Haikou Hotel

海口賓館
 4 Haifu Road, Haikou, Hainan 570003
 Tel: 772221, 772266-8878, 773245
 Telex: 490060 HTLHK CN
 Fax: 772232
 GM: Wu Yuming
 Opened 1987
 200 rooms and suites Rates: Standard HK\$468, suite HK\$728

Located 1 km from airport
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, conference halls, business centre, shopping arcade, swimming pool, gym, dance hall, beauty salon, karaoke

Haikou International Financial Centre

海口國際金融大廈
 33 Datong Road, Haikou, Hainan 570001
 Tel: 773088, 774099 Telex: 490058, 490059 HITFC CN
 Fax: 772113, 774574
 Opened February 1988
 241 rooms and suites Rates: Standard HK\$360/400/480, suite HK\$660-1000 (all +10%)
 Located in the commercial and cultural centre of Haikou City, 10 minutes from airport
 Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, conference rooms, bowling, karaoke, bar, disco, swimming pool, billiard room, gym, beauty salon

Haikou Nanchang Hotel

海口南昌大廈
 9 Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
 Tel: 222866
 102 rooms and suites Rates: Standard Rmb ¥100, deluxe Rmb ¥120
 Located 2 km from airport
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, ballroom, bar

Haikou Tower Hotel

海口泰華酒店
 Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
 Tel: 772990, 773962 Telex: 490050 TOWER CN
 Fax: 773966
 GM: Raymond Ng
 Opened 25 November 1986
 240 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC ¥379.5/414, suite FEC ¥621/667
 Located in the new financial centre of Haikou, 10 minutes from airport
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, beauty salon, billiard room, bar, coffee shop, swimming pool, tennis courts, gym

Nantian Hotel

南天大酒店
 3 Airport Road West, Haikou, Hainan 570003
 Tel: 774888 Telex: 45053 NTHTL CN
 GM: Long Deqian
 191 rooms and suites Rates: Single FEC ¥124, double FEC ¥185, suite FEC ¥280
 Located 1 km from airport, 2 km from the city centre
 Facilities: Chinese restaurant, roadside snacks, sauna, health centre, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke

Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑賓館



Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
 Tel: 772776, 773423 Telex: 490057 OCHTC CN
 221 rooms and suites Rates: HK\$547 up
 Located 3 km from airport
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, health centre, swimming pool, karaoke, dancing hall

Qiongyuan Hotel

瓊苑賓館
 Niulongpai Road, Haifu Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570003
 Tel: 342245

140 rooms
 Facilities: Restaurants, banquet hall, meeting rooms, beauty salon, karaoke

Seaview International Hotel

望海國際大酒店
 6 Haixiu Road, Haikou, Hainan 570005
 Tel: 773381, 773392 Telex: 490054 SIHHK CN
 Fax: 773101
 267 rooms and suites Rates: Standard Rmb ¥100-240, suite Rmb ¥225-420
 Located in the city centre
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, business centre, shopping arcade, bar, coffee shop, karaoke

Wuzhishan Hotel

五指山大廈
 6 Airport Road East, Haikou, Hainan 570003
 Tel: 772012, 772712
 GM: Lu Shiguang
 Opened 1 June 1987
 154 rooms Rates: US\$20
 Located in the city centre, 500 metres from railway station
 Taxi fare to/from railway station, FEC ¥7
 Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet halls, conference rooms, coffee shop

Tongshi, Hainan

Tongshi Holiday Resort

通什度假村
 Haiyu Road North, Tongshi, Hainan 572200
 Tel: 622588, 622888
 52 suites
 Located at the city's northern suburb
 Facilities: Restaurants, swimming pool, bar, karaoke

Tongshi Mountain Villa

通什旅遊山莊
 Hebei Road West, Suburban Area, Tongshi, Hainan 572200
 Tel: 223563, 223564
 Located at the southern foot of Wuzhi Mountain
 Facilities: Restaurant offering local delicacies, ballroom

Sanya, Hainan

Jinling Holiday Resort

金陵度假村
 Luling Road, Sanya, Hainan 572021
 Tel: 214088 Fax: 214088
 GM: Huang Xiuguang
 Opened 28 November 1989
 147 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$50, suite US\$90
 Located 5 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
 Facilities: Restaurants, banquet rooms, conference rooms, business centre, dance hall, bar, coffee shop, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic

Sanya International Hotel

三亞國際大酒店
 Jiefang Road East, Sanya, Hainan 572000
 Tel: 273068, 274041 Fax: 275049
 GM: Xi Qinghui
 220 rooms and suites Rates: US\$45 up
 Located 20 km from airport
 Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥15-20
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, beauty salon, disco, bar

Xinya Hotel

新亞酒店
 3 Xinjian Road, Sanya, Hainan 572000
 60 rooms
 Located in the city centre
 Facilities: Restaurant, karaoke, bar, shopping arcade



BUSINESS TIPS

The modern city of Chongqing in this Province has been approved by the State Council as a special zone.
Liaoning just opened Hubei Province's capital of Shijiazhuang, the city of Guangdong has recently opened 12 projects for foreign investment and cooperation.

Guangzhou Opening More Financial Institutions

The city of Guangzhou in Guangdong Province will be setting up a number of new financial institutions over the next few years. The central government is set to approve the establishment of more foreign bank branches there, since at present there are only six. Provincial and municipal authorities are also planning to build a public foreign exchange market and the Guangzhou Financing Centre, which should be open by early 1994. An urban shareholding co-operative is in the works as well, and the city is currently cracking down on illegal futures traders in order to further improve the city's financial prospects.

Investment Opportunities in Hebei's Baoding

The city of Baoding, just south of Beijing in Hebei Province, has opened up over 100 co-operative ventures to foreign investment. Preferential policies have been adopted for investors in Baoding, which in the first seven months of 1993 had already attracted US\$470 million in overseas funds. The projects will include the upgrading of industry, the renovation of old buildings, land development and urban infrastructure. The city is also currently building two industrial and technology development zones, and is planning to construct a "Hong Kong City" to introduce new technology and a "Miniature World Presidential Palace" to develop the city's tourism.

New Six-Lane Bridge in Shanghai

The booming metropolis of Shanghai has built a new bridge, called the Yangpu Bridge, which spans the Huangpu River. Due to open to traffic before the end of 1993, the bridge has six lanes and can handle some 50,000 vehicles a day. Said to be the world's longest cable-supported bridge, it is 7,658 metres long and has tall, tower-like structures built at either end. The new bridge should greatly facilitate travel between the economic zone of Pudong and Puxi, Shanghai's business centre.

New Handan-Jinan Railway Planned

Construction will soon begin on a new railway line linking up the cities of Jinan in Shandong Province and Handan in neighbouring Hebei Province. At present passengers must travel north to Shijiazhuang in Hebei in order to travel between the two places. The new railway, however, will run directly across the two provinces and stop at the city at Liaocheng in Shandong, where it will converge with the Beijing-Shanghai Railway at Yancheng Station. The project, costing US\$258 million, will be sponsored by the Ministry of Railways and the governments of the two provinces. The new railway is intended to improve communications and transport facilities, as well as to provide another route for the transport of coal to the coastal areas.

Shanxi Opens 12 Power Plants to Foreign Investors

Shanxi Province, long known as the nation's most important coal producer, is planning to build a number of new power plants in order to help alleviate the nation's long-standing shortage of electricity. Despite the fact that Shanxi has been China's biggest supplier of electricity for the past five years, it is still only able to supply 20 per cent of the country's total need.

The provincial government will be opening all the projects to foreign investors, and has already begun negotiations with overseas companies for several of its 12 planned power stations. One contract has already been signed for a power station in the southern city of Yangcheng which will transmit electricity to Guangdong; American and Hong Kong companies are negotiating to build a station in the city of Changzhi to supply Shandong Province; further north another will be built in Yangquan to provide electricity to Hebei, and another will be located in the northern border city of Hequ to bring electricity to Beijing, Tianjin and Tangshan.

These and seven other power station projects were opened up to foreign investors during the province's 6th Symposium on International Economic and Technical Co-operation. The estimated investment required for each plant is approximately US\$1.7 billion, part of which will come from the central government and the provinces and cities that will be receiving the electricity.

Fuzhou-Hong Kong Sea Route

By the end of 1993, Fujian Province's capital city of Fuzhou will open a new sea route to Hong Kong. The city has recently opened three deepwater berths, one for passengers, one for containers and the other for sundry goods, all located in the Mawei Economic and Technical Development Zone. The new berths will mean that passenger liners and other ships will be able to travel directly between the two cities.

Investment Needed for Guangdong Forest Park

The Guangdong Forestry Department is currently seeking foreign investment to build recreational facilities in the newly-established Baoshan Forest Park. Located in the city of Dongguan, just to the east of Guangzhou, the new forest park will be built along Baoshan Mountain and will cover an area of 8,100 hectares. Besides the recreational facilities, the department is planning to spend some US\$1.17 million on building 100 sculptures depicting figures from ancient Chinese legends.

Import Tariffs to Be Reduced

In order to make Chinese products more competitive on the international markets, the Tariff Commission has recently decided to lower import tariffs by as much as 8.8 per cent as of December 31. At that time import duties on 2,898 goods, about half the country's total imports, will be lowered. Meant to help increase foreign trade, average tariff rates will drop from the current 39.9 to 36.4 per cent.

Foreign Loans Needed for Agricultural Projects

Agricultural development projects have become a major priority in helping China to alleviate poverty and increase grain production, therefore the Ministry of Agriculture has decided to seek more foreign assistance in the form of loans. In particular, the State Planning Commission has said that it is hoping to receive US\$1.4 billion in loans from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for agricultural projects in 1993-94. The International Fund for Agricultural Development, an arm of the United Nations, will also be contributing to projects in China, and the central government will be spending US\$12 million in foreign exchange to import high-quality grain and livestock.



Palaeocene Fossils Discovered

Fossils from the Palaeocene period (54-64 million years ago) have been discovered by archaeologists in Anhui Province's Qianshan County. Experts have said that this discovery is of great significance worldwide regarding the evolution of modern mammals, as the fossils date back to the time when prehistoric mammals roamed the earth following the extinction of the dinosaurs. So far a total of 20 fossils have been discovered in this county alone, and have been classified into 37 genera, 13 orders and three classes.

Hotels Offer Winter Packages in Tianjin, Xi'an

The Hyatt hotels in Tianjin and Xi'an are offering special discount rates for the winter tourist season. Until March 25, 1994, the 450-room Hyatt Tianjin is charging US\$118 (plus 15% service charge) per night for single occupancy, including an American breakfast, airport transfer and limited free laundry service. The hotel is conveniently located downtown near the Haihe River and has a wide range of facilities.

An even more attractive package is available at the Hyatt Regency in the ancient city of Xi'an. Providing one stays a minimum of two nights, the hotel is offering a special winter rate of just US\$54 (plus 15% service charge) per room per night, including breakfast, a shopping discount voucher and other amenities. The hotel is also conveniently located downtown, close to tourist sites and shops. This special rate will run until March 15, 1994.

For reservations or information, phone the Hyatt Tianjin at 723-3127 or (86) (22) 30-1234, and the Hyatt Regency Xi'an at (86) (29) 73-1234.

Guangzhou Building Sightseeing Park

A new sightseeing park is under construction in Guangdong's capital city of Guangzhou. Located in the Tianhe district of the city, the park will cost a total of US\$64 million. The park is intended to combine art and entertainment with tourism, and will consist of a section of villas and 58 tourist and art resorts. The project is expected to be completed by May 1995.

Island Resort in Guangdong

Xiachuan Island, located off the southern coast of Guangdong Province near the city of Taishan, is now classified as a tourist resort area. The island is approximately 100 square kilometres in area and boasts over 20 bathing beaches. In the past year various tourist facilities have been built on the island including a tourism centre, a tropical plant park and a tropical fish aquarium.

Nan'ao Island a Tourist Resort

Guangdong Province's once strategically important Nan'ao Island is gradually turning into a popular tourist resort. Located 24 nautical miles from Shantou, the island boasts rolling mountains, long sandy beaches and beautiful scenery. With a mild climate year-round, visitors can swim, surf, dive and fish as well as enjoy some of the island's historical attractions. Nan'ao is also on the migratory path of over 90 species of birds which rest here on their journey south. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the island as well, and during the Summer Solstice many people come to Nan'ao to watch the sunrise and sunset.

Sichuan Miniature Park Now Open

A new park in Sichuan Province's capital city of Chengdu has recently opened, showcasing in miniature Sichuan's 24 major tourist attractions. The park is named the Bashu Miniature Park, taking its name from ancient times, when the eastern part of Sichuan was called Ba and the western part Shu. Sites in the new park include scale models of Chengdu's city walls, some of the temples on Emei Mountain, a Song-dynasty pagoda from Qionglai City, Tibetan villages in Batang County, Leshan's well-known large Buddha carving, the Three Gorges at the Yangtze River and more.

10,000-Year-Old Dragon Art Found

The oldest dragon image ever discovered was recently found in Shanxi Province's northern Jixian County. The image was painted on cliffs located at the southern end of the Lüliang Mountains some 10,000 years ago. Archaeologists said that the paintings were done using a compound which included red hematite powder, a substance that can withstand centuries of weathering. Besides the dragon, images of a deer carrying her young, a fish-shaped creature with deer horns and a nude goddess were also painted on the cliff, and over 1,000 stone tools dating back to the Stone Age were discovered at the site.

New Bangkok-Shanghai Flights

Thai Airways is now offering direct flights from Bangkok to the city of Shanghai. Flights will run three times a week and will use Airbus-600 planes with a seating capacity of 247. Thai Airways already has direct flights between Bangkok and the Chinese cities of Beijing and Kunming.

New Opera City to Be Built

The town of Bazhou in Hebei Province will soon begin construction of the China Traditional Opera City, where visitors can learn about and enjoy one of China's finest forms of entertainment. The opera city will include a museum of traditional operas, two gardens with performance stages and a theatre. On exhibit in the museum will be materials used in traditional opera during the Tang and Song dynasties, when opera was particularly popular.

Tang Emperor's Palace Being Restored

A temporary residence once belonging to Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) will soon be undergoing renovation. Located on Mount Lishan in Lintong County in central Shaanxi Province, just outside the capital Xi'an, Huaqing Palace covers an area of 87 hectares and includes gardens, pools and museums. The Xi'an municipal government is planning to spend US\$175 million on this massive project, and a Singapore company will invest a further US\$4.2 million to build more palaces, pagodas and pavilions. So far the Huaqing Hot Springs, already a major tourist attraction, have been restored and a cable car going up the mountain will soon be in operation.

New Beijing-Tianjin Highway to Open

Driving from Beijing to Tianjin will soon become easier with the opening up of a new expressway linking the two major cities. The highway will be conveniently located to connect up with the Beijing airport, the airport in Tianjin and Tianjin Port, terminating in Tianjin's Tanggu District. A trip that used to take some four and a half hours will take only a third as much time, and some 50,000 vehicles will be able to use the new expressway every day.

New Highway in Hangzhou

The beautiful city of Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province is planning to build a new highway in order to alleviate traffic congestion in the city centre. Jointly funded by the Hangzhou Communications Bureau and a Hong Kong company, the 38-kilometre expressway will be the first highway to circle the city rather than cut through it.

Ancient Mummies Unearthed in Xinjiang

More than a dozen mummified corpses were recently unearthed 300 kilometres east of Ürümqi in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The corpses date back to the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), and are believed to be the bodies of people who lived in the lost Kingdom of Cheshi, one of China's 16 states in the far northwest of the country. All the corpses were clothed in leather jackets, shoes, felt hats and hair nets, and some were buried with leather pouches containing a medicinal substance. Some had had surgery performed on their chests and stomachs, and there were also corpses with tattoos on their faces, apparently a custom at that time.

Mao's Former HQ Open to Tourists

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Mao Zedong's birth on December 26, 1993 Mao's old headquarters at Xibaipo near Shijiazhuang in Hebei Province has been opened to visitors. The site was the last location of the Communist Party before they moved to Beijing and includes a meeting room, a radio office, a hostel, a primary school and the rooms where former leaders used to live.

N E X T
I S S U E

Winter Travel Special

For our next issue, rather than trying to escape the cold and snow, our reporters decided instead to revel in the beauty and charm of China's northeastern provinces. In the icy climes of Heilongjiang, we will take you to Shuangfeng, the place with the highest snowfall in the country, and to the ski slopes at Yabuli. On a tour of the northeast, one reporter tried his hand at skiing, saw a 70-year-old man swim in the ice-covered Songhua River and had his first taste of venison. However, for those slightly less enthusiastic about the snow and cold, our next issue will also carry an article on Hainan Island — a perfect winter getaway.

• An Ideal Ski Resort in Yabuli

• Northeast China's Yangko Dance

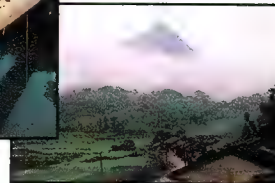
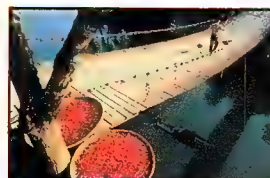
• The Dreamlike World of Shuangfeng



• A Travel Diary: On Tour to the Snowy Northeast

• Climbing Wuzhi Mountain — Hainan's Highest Peak

• Life Along the Chong'an River — Miao and Ge Rural Communities in Guizhou



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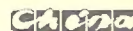
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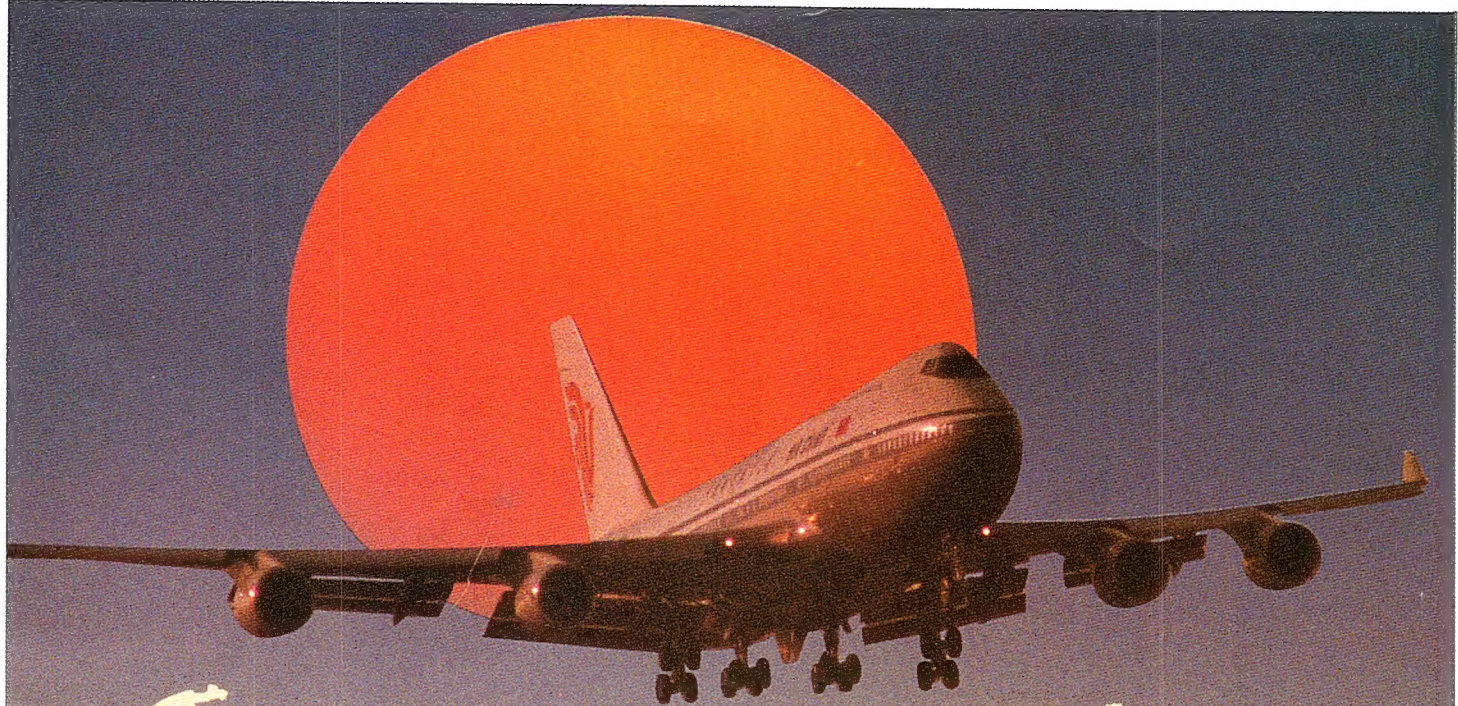
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我們的機群以波音大中型客機為主，其中包括當今世界上最先進、最豪華、具有404個客座的波音747-400全客機和載貨量最大的波音747-200F全貨機。

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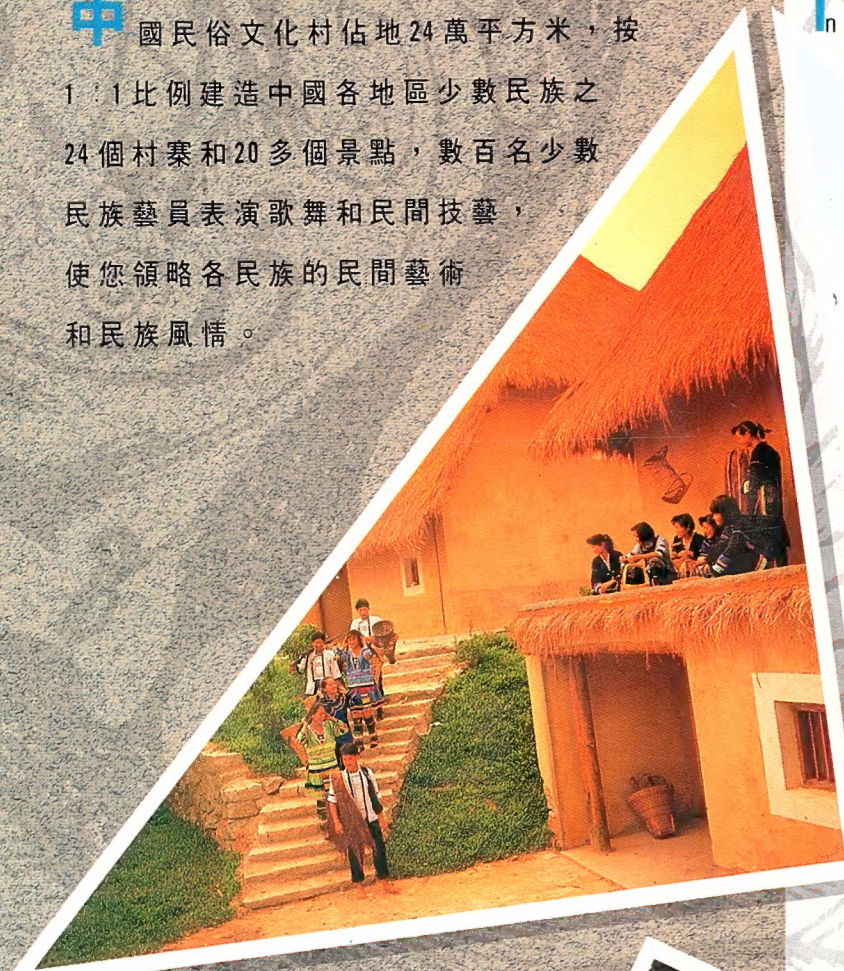
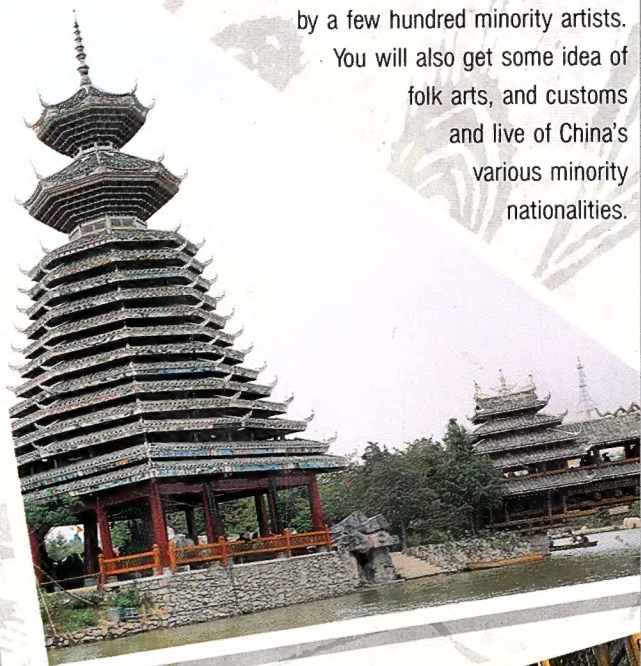
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